FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENT GRANTS PARDONS, COMMUTES SENTENCES

PY291220 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0025 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- The national executive branch has granted pardons to and commuted sentences of 35 prisoners serving time at various penitentiaries throughout the nation. The decisions were made by the president of the nation in keeping with his constitutional powers after receiving the appropriate court reports and the favorable ruling of the parole board.

UBALDINI'S CGT PRAISES WORKERS' ORDERLY STRIKE

PY291854 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2018 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (DYN) -- The CGT [General Labor Confederation] on Brasil Street, led by Saul Ubaldini, released a public document this afternoon through which it "proudly praises and thanks" the workers for their response to the call for a general strike and proposes a "joint" program that will bring all Argentines together to oppose those who are seeking to subject us again to serve their spurious foreign interests." The CGT-Brasil stressed in its document "the orderly compliance" with the strike. The CGT estimated that "6 million fellow workers, our brethren who are still peaceful, participated in the strike. These fellow workers have expressed through their decision to stop all their activities the feelings of all Argentine people."

"The legitimacy of a measure lies inexorably in the consensus it deserves and on the attention it receives from the persons to whom it is addressed." The CGT communique adds that "With their behavior, the Argentine people have given a tremendous expression of national disatisfaction." With our slogans for peace, bread and jobs, we are fighting for a real democracy, expressing the people's general dissatisfaction in an orderly manner, to avoid uncontrolled demonstrations of violence, which would give the necessary excuse for a new totalitarian adventure to seize power and abort a new electoral process," the document states. It also warned that "The people will not tolerate a new disappointment."

The CGT led by Ubaldini urged "all workers to band together within their organizations despite all their different points of view, and to rally around their leaders to consolidate their unity through action in the interest of the well-being of the people and the greatness of the fatherland." The warning is also addressed "to all union leaders so that transcending all ideological trends, party preferences and tactical differences, we can consolidate an indestructable and everlasting unity." The last paragraph of the document urges the Catholic Church "to encourage this same change through its prudent and secular wisdom, and also to help us reach the basic understanding to achieve national reconciliation."

FINANCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM IBD MEETING

PY281708 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Finance Minister Flavio Machicado returned from Panama yesterday after participating in the annual meeting of IDB governors held there. Minister Machciado signed three loan agreements with IDB Director Antonio Ortiz Mena totaling $134 million. This amount will be used by the Bolivian Government to prospect for and exploit hydrocarbons. According to reports, the minister also held important meetings with international private bankers and reached some agreements to renegotiate Bolivia's foreign debt under favorable conditions for the country.

Minister Machicado allegedly reached preliminary agreements to postpone the payment of interest. According to reports from Panama, Bolivia's creditors have agreed to the proposal made by Minister Machicado to postpone interest payments for a 6-month term. At the end of this term, Bolivia will have to pay $96 million by way of interest. Machicado gave assurances in Panama that Bolivia will be capable of complying with its commitments by mid-year. Today the finance minister will hold an important meeting with acting President Jaime Paz Zamora to brief on the negotiations carried out in Pamama.

Debt to U.S. Rescheduled

PY292247 Paris AFP in Spanish 2042 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 28 Mar (AFP) -- Finance Minister Flavio Machicado Saravia stated here today that Bolivia has recovered its solvency as a result of the successful renegotiation of its debt of over $1 billion. Bolivia managed to reschedule its debt with its U.S. creditors during a meeting held in Panama.

One of the first agreements reached by Bolivia with its creditors is the postponement of payment of an initial sum of $460 million of its foreign debt to be followed by the postponement of $660 million which will be negotiated later.

Upon his arrival in La Paz, the finance minister stated that the international banking sector has been highly understanding thus allowing us to overcome a situation which was choking us.

The final agreement over the payment of interest rates and amortization for over $460 million, due for payment on 6 April, will be signed on 27 April during another meeting with Bolivia's creditors at a place yet to be established.

Another meeting will be held in October in order to establish the terms for renegotiating the remaining $660 million.

Official sources pointed out that by renegotiating its foreign debt with the U.S. banking sector, Bolivia will be able to obtain new loans which will permit economic recovery.

In addition to renegotiating its debt with the U.S. banking sector, President Siles Zuazo -- during his visit to Paris -- will personally conduct negotiations to reschedule the Bolivian debt with European countries.

PEASANT WORKERS OBJECT TO ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY292205 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Mar 83 p 9

[Text] The Single Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers believes that the economic measures the government adopted recently have once again ignored the peasant sector, which is "the majority in Bolivia."

Genaro Flores, the confederation's top leader, told PRESENCIA that the measures will be harmful to peasants. "The price of agricultural products has once again been frozen while prices of manufactured products that peasants have to buy have risen," Flores said.

He remarked that the freezing of agricultural product prices and the simultaneous increase in prices of family basket products has given rise to an unfair situation.

An increasing food shortage has been reported in eastern Bolivia, in the plateau and in the valleys.

Peasants are concerned over the situation. "The government must become aware that peasants are exerting pressure and that, therefore, the solution of the 12-point petition submitted to the government must be given priority consideration," Flores stressed. He added that while the sector is awaiting an answer, it has declared a nationwide state of emergency.

Flores reported that they have set next Monday as a deadline for receiving an official answer. On this day, the executive secretaries of departmental federations will hold meetings and will evaluate the sector's situation.

The president of the public has promised that the 12-point petition would be analyzed during a cabinet meeting and that it would then be answered.

Flores contended that the Ministry of Peasant Affairs "has adopted no serious decision for either solving the situation provoked by the natural disasters in eastern Bolivia, the valleys and the plateau, or reactivating the agriculture and livestock sector." Genaro Flores explained that the petition includes requests dealing with the sectors main problems.

NEWS MEDIA WORKERS STAGE 48-HOUR STRIKE

PY291908 Paris AFP in Spanish 1706 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 29 Mar (AFP) -- The 48-hour strike ordered by journalists and workers in general against newspapers and radio and television stations began in Bolivia today as a protest against the employers' refusal to pay a bonus ordered in a ruling by an arbitration panel.

The national printers' union was the last to join the nationwide strike ordered by the Bolivian Press Workers Federation (FTPB) and the Radio and Television Workers Confederation (Constratev).

The ruling by the arbitration panel, approved by the Labor Ministry and ratified by the president of the nation himself, approved the payment of a bonus worth two-and-a-half monthly salaries to all journalists as compensation for the cost of living increase.

The employers who belong to the National Press Association (ANP) and the Bolivian Radio Broadcasting Association (Asbora) rejected the ruling claiming they have no legal powers to enter into multilateral agreements with journalists' unions. The National Union of Journalists will stage a general indefinite strike if the cost of living bonus is not paid.

PRESIDENT DISCOURAGES POLITICAL SPECULATION

PY291554 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Mar 83 p 3

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- During yesterday's program "The People and the President," broadcast by the Globo Network, President Joao Figueiredo urged the news media, politicians and managers to stop worrying about the succession because he believes that now is the time to manage the economic problems of the nation and not engage in political maneuvering.

"I do have 2 more years to go as president of the nation, 2 difficult years and I am worried about the problems of the nation and about the situation of the people, not about personal ambitions. I hope" the president said, "that the news media, politicians and managers will stop worrying about the succession and try to help me cope with the difficulties of these 2 years ahead of us."

According to Figueiredo, "1983 is a difficult year and it is getting more and more difficult all the time. Thus, it is necessary to dispense with all this gossip about candidacies and candidates," because he feels that "this is not the right time to discuss the matter."

"I know that political maneuvers cannot be stopped. The political game never stops. Politics does not stand still and interests and maneuvers have a life of their own. However, I have already stated my position. In my opinion," he emphasized, "now is the time for management and for managing in the best way possible. I want to say that those maneuvers directed at ensuring better management have my support. The others do not."

MEDEIROS DENIES BEING PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL

PY291547 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 83 p 4

[From the Brasilia branch]

[Excerpt] General Octavio Medeiros, head of the National Intelligence Service, SNI, last night told a group of Social Democratic Party (PDS) leaders -- surprised to find him at a meeting called by Minister Danilo Venturini to talk about data processing -- that "I have never said that I was a presidential hopeful." Medeiros also categorically denied that the SNI has overstepped its bounds and emphasized that he wants to "take the SNI off the front page of the newspapers."

The PDS leaders took advantage of the meeting, which was also attended by Military Household Chief Rubem Ludwig, to discuss the decree-law designed to amend the salary law. Many of them asked the ministers to intercede with the president to withdraw Decree-Law 2012 from Congress in order to avoid a worsening of the social and economic crisis.

FOREIGN MINISTER'S AFRICA TRIP ASSESSED

PY291958 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Mar 83 p 13

[Text] Brasilia -- Even though the rapprochement with African nations will not yield immediately favorable results for Brazil, the political significance given this effort is fully justified, because once the international economic crisis is over it may be too late to gain a foothold in this strategic area.

The is the evaluation of a high-ranking Foreign Ministry source of the trip Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro made to Gabon, Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau last week. That trip increased to 10 the number of countries visited by the foreign minister since President Figueiredo took over.

Since it was impossible to significantly increase trade in the short term, the practical result of Guerreiro's visit was an opening toward a new kind of technical and cultural cooperation. Brazil will now grant more scholarships to Africans and will expand the labor market of Brazilian enterprises in the fields of consulting, engineering and mineral prospecting.

According to the same source, Brazil has a privileged position in the eyes of its African counterparts because of the aspects which this country and that continent share as far as geographical and cultural characteristics are concerned.

The lack of capital and the shortcomings of the financial systems of the countries recently visited by Saraiva Guerreiro prompted Brazil to offer to increase its participation in supplying services. This is the case with Gabon, whose main railroad -- the trans-Gabonese -- could be partially built by Brazilian companies.

Facing severe economic difficulties, Guinea-Bissau will get more technical cooperation from Brazil through the implementation of a sorghum-sugar cane project in Gambiel, the development of prospecting for minerals and peat, and hydro-geological studies. Brazil will also cooperate in the training of cadre personnel, even diplomats.

Itamaraty hopes that Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro's visit will have some repercussions in other African countries, as happened during his recent meetings in Libreville, Abidjan, and Bissau, where the results of the visits to Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Nigeria and Senegal were already known.

The diplomatic source indicated that although Brazilian prospecting equipment has no access to the markets of developed countries, this country can trade among Southern nations with relative ease. Cooperation with African countries could even include selling them arms because Africa is a great unexplored market capable of supplying raw materials such as Zambia's copper, Mozambique's coal and the oil which various countries produce. Brazil must find a place within this framework and this means that it is very important not to be seen as a colonial power.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REVIEW ENERGY PROGRAMS

PY300145 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals opened a meeting today for the evaluation of the energy and mining projects being promoted by his ministry.

Businessmen and heads of units connected with that sector will be gathered until tomorrow in the auditorium of Itamaraty in Brasilia to analyze the ministry's overall plans in the area of energy and mining.

Speaking at the opening session, Minister Cals noted the importance of analyzing the program of the Figueiredo government in this sector, in order to gather the information necessary to guarantee the continuation of such programs, adding that, by the end of the meeting, it will be possible to have a clear picture of the successes and failures during the 4 years of his tenure.

In turn, Eletrobras President Costa Cavalcanti affirmed today in Vitoria, Espirito Santo, that the government's energy programs are being delayed by the current international crisis. He said that the nuclear plant Angra I is undergoing tests prior to its going on line and that the Angra II project will be continued, but that the construction of the nuclear plants in Sao Paulo will be delayed though not cancelled.

FOREIGN MINISTER: MEETING WITH SHULTZ POSITIVE

PY291446 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Miguel Schweitzer and Secretary of State George Shultz held a 50-minute meeting in Washington. The Chilean foreign minister arrived in Washington yesterday. Schweitzer expressed satisfaction over the results of this meeting. This is what he said to Radio Nacional:

[Begin Schweitzer recording] All I can tell you is that it was a very positive meeting. It was positive because both the Chilean and U.S. positions were clearly discussed within the framework of bilateral relations, of the regional situation and of the influence of the international crisis on our country. This is all I can tell you for the moment. [end recording]

Schweitzer also said that he will first brief the president of the republic on the results of the meeting, although he did reiterate that it was a meeting of great interest for U.S.-Chilean relations.

The foreign minister left last night for New York, where he will hold a number of new diplomatic meetings.

IDB TO GRANT NEW CREDITS FOR PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

PY291455 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The IDB will grant new credits to Chile this year to support the productive sector. This report was released by IDB Executive Director (Juan Manuel Casanova) and IDB representative to Chile (Johan Smotley). Both (Casanova) and (Smotley) met with Economy Minister Manuel Martin. (Casanova) stated that new credit applications have been presented by Chile, and that those loans that were already granted have been reviewed. He also expressed satisfaction over the manner in which these credits were used.

(Casanova) added that new credits are under study to finance the (Colbun-Machicura) hydroelectric project. He also said that the IDB will grant further credits for urban development and agricultural projects. In this regard, he stated that the IDB will expand the granting of resources to Chile during the next 4 years. He concluded by saying that they and Chilean officials are studying the possibility of supporting the southern highway project, although he admitted that this project had previously been analyzed.

INVOLVEMENT IN SINKING OF 'BELGRANO' DENIED

Embassy Statement

PY291427 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2155 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- The Chilean Embassy in our country categorically denied today a report accusing Chile of being involved in the sinking of the ship General Belgrano during the conflict with Great Britain. The report states that Chile provided the British Government with the position of the ship so that it could be torpedoed.

In this regard, a communique released by the Chilean Embassy states that it categorically denies the report released by an international news agency and published by afternoon newspapers in this capital. This report has the purpose of involving our country in the South Atlantic conflict, the communique states. Chile also wants to express its repudiation of this type of report, which only seeks to disturb the normal relations between the two nations, the communique concludes.

Navy Denial

PY291426 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The Chilean Navy has termed unfounded the report attributed to British reporter Robert Fox that involves the Chilean Navy in the sinking of the Argentine ship General Belgrano during the Malvinas war.

AFP released a statement yesterday by Fox, a BBC reporter, involving the Chilean Navy in this episode. In a communique released yesterday, the Chilean Navy states: In view of the report released by AFP based on the statement made by BBC reporter Robert Fox, the Chilean Navy states that the report on the war episode falls within the exclusive responsibility of Mr Fox, and therefore deserves no comment.

PRIESTS NOT CHARGED FOR JOINING IN DEMONSTRATION

PY291308 Paris AFP in Spanish 2101 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 26 Mar (AFP) -- It was officially reported today that the Chilean Government will not charge the two Catholic priests who were arrested during violent street demonstrations that took place last Thursday in Santiago. Father Pablo Fontaine and Irish Father Jeremias Francis Healy Kerins were handed over to Apostolic Nuncio Angelo Sodano hours after they were arrested in a downtown Santiago street.

After their arrest during the antigovernment demonstrations 2 days ago, which were sponsored by leftist organizations, the archbishop's office protested the arbitrary measure and claimed that the priests were innocent. It was noted that the priests were arrested by police agents when some civilians who took part in the protest march sought asylum in a church where the two priests were assisting in a mass in honor of assassinated Salvadoran Bishop Oscar Romero. The declaration by the archbishop's office stated that Fontaine and Healy are far from being political activists.

The police reported that both of them were carrying placards with a picture of Msgr Romero and the phrase: I order you, in the name of God, to put an end to repression. This was what the late Salvadoran bishop said 3 years ago in the last sermon he delivered to Salvadoran Government officials.

The priests stated under oath that it was true that they were carrying three of those placards under their arms, but said that they were not involved in the demonstrations that were taking place at that time. They added: The police took us to their cars, and later we were astonished to learn that we were charged with violating the state security law and with carrying 48 placards.

BRIEFS

COPPER EXPORT FIGURES -- Mines Minister Samuel Lira Ovalle has reported that in 1982, copper exports hit 1,000,055 tons, earning a total of $1,442,000,000, and that in 1981, when prices were higher, 841,055 tons yielded $1,474,000,000. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 83 PY]

ARMY REPORTS ON 1982 GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

PA282340 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Mar 83 pp 1, 3

[By Jorge Gonzalez]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 22 Mar (CIEP) -- A total of 98 members of the Armed Forces were killed and 110 wounded last year in the struggle against guerrillas in the country. This was reported by a top member of the Army while disclosing summarized statistics on the quota of blood that this institution and the police have given for the pacification cause. A total of 5 officers, 14 ncos, 21 soldiers and 58 police have died in antiguerrilla actions. Most of them belonged to garrisons in Caqueta, Antioquia and Cordoba, which are also the departments with the highest incidence of guerrilla activities.

The communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), considered the organization with the broadest "support," killed 13 soldiers and 10 policemen in ambushes, armed contacts and clashes, assaults, and harassments during 1982. The M-19 [19 April Movement] killed 7 soldiers and 11 policemen during the same period, while the EPL (People's Liberation Army] killed 2 soldiers and 12 policemen, the ELN [National Liberation Army] killed 3 policemen, and other armed groups killed 6 soldiers and 34 policemen.

By Regions

In Caqueta Department, statistically the region where most conflicts occurred, the Army lost 15 men and the police 5 in the past year. In Antioquia, the Army lost 3 soldiers and the police 17 in public order campaigns. According to statistics, the departments most affected by guerrilla violence were Cordoba, Santander and Hoila, in that order.

The statistics also reveal that guerrilla groups killed 318 civilians in these regions in 1982. In taking a look at each group's criminal records, we find that:

FARC killed 162 people, most of them members of peasant families in areas of mid-Magdalena, Caqueta Department, and the Eastern Plains.

The pro-Maoist EPL was responsible for the death of 46 civilians, mainly in the Uraba region. It is particularly interesting to note that the EPL urban arm ("Pedro Leon Arboleda" Movement) claimed responsibility for a number of these crimes, especially in the city of Medellin.

The M-19 -- the group that has most favorably reacted to the amnesty law -- was held responsible for the death of 14 people from 2 January 1982 to 26 November 1982, when the group apparently suspended its actions against the civilian population in influential areas.

The ELN killed 14 people in Arauca Intendancy and the northeastern sector of Cequeta Department, which are this group's main areas of operation.

The "Workers' Self-Defense" Movement -- practically extinguished, according to military intelligence -- killed four people in March, 1982.

Additionally, 78 civilians were killed by unidentified guerrilla groups.

M-19, FARC LEADERS REPORTEDLY CAPTURED

PA292006 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1421 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Florencia, Colombia, 29 Mar (EFE) -- Three guerrilla commanders were captured by regular army troops in southern Colombia, it was officially reported today. Gonzalo Osorio, alias "Lt Raul," one of the most important men in the 19 April Movement (M-19) ranks in El Caqueta, was arrested by military troops in a downtown street in Florencia. An army spokesman said that "Lt Raul" is accused of participating in the hijacking of an "Aeropesca" aircraft in 1981, which was carrying a shipment of arms for the rebels in Colombia from someplace in Central America.

The military forces in Morelia captured guerrillas Juan Ballen Garzon and Roberto Bolanos Moyano, the latter known as "Albert." The two rebels are leaders of the Finance Committee of the 10th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which is active in El Caqueta in the southern part of the country near the Amazon region.

ARMY KILLS SIX GUERRILLAS IN RECENT CLASHES

PA291336 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Villavicencio -- Two guerrillas of the 18th Front of the subversive Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, were killed today in a skirmish with units from the 7th Military Brigade near San Juan de Arama. One of the dead subversives was identified as (Carlos Enrique Gomez), known to his friends as (Coto). No casualties were reported among the regular army troops. Meanwhile, it was learned that on the plains of Yari, in Caqueta, four guerrillas belonging to the FARC and the M-19 [19 April Movement], were killed in other confrontations.

PRESIDENT HURTADO GIVES TV NEWS CONFERENCE

PA281736 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Mar 83

[News conference granted by Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea; at the studio of Channel 13 TV, Quito -- live]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr President, everybody knows that the developments last week [words indistinct] to which you referred, between the production and labor sectors, in any event, within the framework of the various statements made by both the representatives of the United Workers Front [FUT] and the government, Government Minister Dr Galo Garcia said at a press conference that it is not possible to accept the fact that four national strikes have been staged in less than 6 months under a democratic system. We share that view too; we believe he is right. However, Mr President, do you think that the Ecuadorean people should and must accept consecutive devaluations, economic measures that deteriorate their incomes and a tremendous cost-of-living increase, including the price of milk that recently went up? Should nothing be said about this because democracy might be destabilized?

[Answer] I don't think any government official has failed to recognize the Ecuadorean people's right to express their protests over the economic decisions made in recent months. I have never thought that those decisions deserved applause either. If there is to be any applause, it will be in a few years, when the perspective that time bring with it will make it possible to study more calmly the significance of these measures, and the way in which they will have surely helped overcome one of the country's worst economic crises. The protest, then, is legitimate. The Ecuadorean people cannot be happy with the price hike, more specifically, with the hike in the price of either milk or fuels.

However, the government's view is that the protest has exceeded certain limits. Since we have guaranteed and even improved the real income by 37 percent under the democratic system -- I am talking about the real income of the workers with lower wages -- the labor union leaders must consider the fact that the government has taken compensatory measures. If the current statistics indicated that the real income of the workers who earn the lower wages was 10 or 20 percent lower than their wages in 1979, then yes, there would be a reason for systematic and periodic protest.

Furthermore, it is necessary to consider the fact that Ecuadorean democracy is only now being reaffirmed, that it does not yet have the institutionality that we would all like it to have. As a result of this, its [word indistinct] must not be curbed. Developments sometimes go beyond certain limits, and order and authority may then be overturned. When this happens in a society, the ghost of dictatorship always emerges. It is then up to the union leaders, the heads of the production chambers, the government leaders and leaders of the political parties to take conflicts only to the limits allowed by the democratic system. We should never exceed these limits. When conflicts exceed the democratic limit, the institutionality of the Constitution and the legal system are undoubtedly risked. That is the government's viewpoint.

[Question] (?What is your view), Mr President, on the refusal of the chamber, or rather, the refusal of the president of the chamber, Rodolfo Baquerizo, to call a special congress, the FUT has charged that it is being ruled behind the people's back. Meanwhile, Labor Minister Vladimiro Alvarez has suggested that this new suspicious coincidence, as he termed it, involving the CFP [Concentration of Popular Forces], the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party and the Democratic Peoples Movement in favor of a special congress might have a conspirational background. If we add to this the public request for a constitutional substitution [words indistinct].

Is your government endangered within the democratic framework? Are you alone in the government? Is an attempt being made to overthrow you? Is there really a conspirational effort underway in Ecuador?

[Answer] I would present the problem in this manner, depersonalizing it: If the last strike was intended to reflect and express the Ecuadorean people's protest, then I think the strike fulfilled its purpose. Noting what one of you has mentioned here, it is impossible to believe that there could have been an agreement between the FUT's very radical struggle platform and the production chambers' struggle platform. The merchants went on strike for different reasons than the workers: In any event, a strike was held; there was a protest. The government has noted that protest and will take it very much into consideration, precisely because of the popular nature of this regime.

However, if this 2-day strike, which was later declared indefinite, was intended to disrupt the public order, perhaps to create general violence and possibly a popular insurrection that would overcome the constitutional regime, leading to either the establishment of a dictatorship or a coup of constitutional appearance, then the strike failed. This is how I would put it, to avoid personalizations and so as not to single out problems.

[Question] Do you represent democracy? [words indistinct] your government represents democracy; it is a democratic government headed by President Hurtado.

[Answer] That is why I said that under the democratic and constitutional government that I represent, if events had exceeded their proper limits, they might have led to the creation of objective conditions where many could assume that a dictatorship is the solution, while others might assume that a coup of constitutional appearance is the solution. Both would be intended to replace the president of the republic.

I, however, would dare make a reflection; let us hypothetically assume that the next president of the republic, for economic reasons, is forced to devalue the currency and to raise the price of fuels. Must he be expelled from the presidency? I don't think so. The Constitution (?and) the Chamber of Representatives' regulations establish the causes over which the president of the republic may be replaced. The fact that the president may make decisions that a sector of the public deems harmful is not one of these causes.

I think that Ecuadorean democracy must get used to the fact that ruling is no longer equivalent to catering to the basest passions, to deceiving the Ecuadorean people, or to showering them with offers. To rule is to solve the country's most pressing problems with the greatest social awareness possible and with the desire to solve them for the good of all Ecuadoreans. If this crisis had not been faced, it would have overcome us all. Even now, after these decisions have been made, if the international economy does not improve and if the Ecuadorean state does not receive cooperation from that economy, the difficulties may continue.

[Question] (?Could we) again refer to the relations between the FUT and the government? In the first place, I would like us to consider the fact that a call to insurrection is merely a hypothesis. I don't think that the call to a strike involved a call to insurrection.

I attended the news conference that the FUT held last night, following a strike committee meeting. The government's position was described there as intransigent. FUT President Froilan Asanza said there that the government had failed to present a single specific proposal or response to the FUT's proposals. I would like to ask you now, does the government have any answers for the FUT? Does the government have any answers to the inflationary problem?

Here I would like to mention something that you have referred to on several occasions, Mr President: The issue of real wages. You claim that in 1982 the real wage is 37 percent higher than in 1979. That is true. It is not true, however, that the 1979 wages can be taken as the basis for comparison. We must consider that the 1979 wages had been frozen for 4 or 5 years and that the financial situation of the Ecuadorean people had been terribly deteriorated and eroded. If we take 1979 as the basis, it is true that at that point the real wage was lower. If you take 1979 as the basis for comparison, however, the price index in the urban area in February 1983 was already 190 [percent] higher. In other words, we are but a step away from doubling the 1979 prices. I think that the erosion and deterioration of the people's standard of living is more marked now, since it was already deteriorated in 1979. True, the vital minimum wage increase decreed by the Chamber of Representatives was substantial, but that merely compensated for the (?price hikes).

So, going back to my question, does the government have any answer to the people's frustrations?

[Answer] I would answer your question by describing the government-FUT relations. Long before making last week's decisions, I met twice with the FUT leaders and, with my economic team advisers, we gave them a detailed description of the economic situation, even disclosing to them reserved information. They were advised about Ecuador's economic problems and about the need to face these problems if we were to avoid even worse damages for the Ecuadorean workers.

Two days before the devaluation, I received the FUT leaders, and when they asked me not to adopt some of these measures, I did not say to them that I would go ahead and take them, since I could not do this, for obvious reasons; but neither did I tell them that the measures would not be adopted. They clearly understood then that the government had to make a decision.

The next day, Thursday, I even tried to hold a meeting with the Monetary Board, but the FUT leaders excused themselves for not attending because they were having convocation or organizational problems.

After the decisions were made, the general strike had been called, and the FUT had publicly released its struggle platform. The labor minister met with them twice. The first time they discussed nine points, I think it was, in great detail, and points of approximation were established in seven of the nine points. What were the two points on which no agreement was reached? The annulment of the economic measures and the dismissal of the government's economic team. Concerning these positions, the minister, on behalf of the government, said no. After this talk we met again. This time at the Presidency of the Republic, and we reviewed all of the FUT's proposals and issued a verbal response.

The labor minister conveyed this response to the meeting held on the day that the strike should have concluded. I am talking about Thursday. Concerning wages, for instance, the government proposed that in the case of public employees, we could proceed to discuss and set new wages, as established in the law on regulation and control of public expenditure. As for the private sector's wages, the government proposed that a commission be appointed, comprising government, labor and private sector representatives, to establish a mechanism for the readjustment of wages.

I could refer briefly to other FUT proposals: for instance, the problem of the peasants affected by the floods, to which a very specific response has been given; to the agrarian reform law regulation, for which there has been another very specific response; to the housing finance programs, for which very specific responses have also been provided.

I have just remembered another request that was turned down: the FUT wanted the educational budget increased from 30 to 35 percent of the state's budget. The minister answered that this would mean an additional 3.5 billion sucres and that there was no financing for this, so we could not increase the educational budget without increasing the deficit.

Regrettably, when the minister conveyed his response -- so I have learned -- the FUT leaders merely listened to him and did not give him a single answer. In other words, they did not discuss the document. When the minister finished reviewing the government's answers, the workers' leaders decided that they did not agree with these answers, that they were leaving and would declare an indefinite strike.

So, there have been responses from the government, very specific responses. Unfortunately, communication has been broken, but not by the government. Despite the FUT declaration, the government remains open to dialogue and is very interested in finding with the workers a formula for reciprocal benefits (?for everyone), for the productive sector and the state. In other words, a formula that will enable us to advance toward economic recovery, while acknowledging the workers' social rights within certain limits, in accordance with the country's currently serious economic problems.

[Question] Mr President, the rumor circulated -- and this caused much political concern in this country -- that due to the conditions created -- the strike, the protest demonstrations, etc. -- you had decided to decree a state of emergency. [National Secretary of Public Information] Dr Ernesto Alban has denied this, but it was even affirmed that the plan had not only been considered, but had already been signed. How true was this assertion?

[Answer] That was not true, that was a false and rash assertion. Such a draft decree was never on my desk. Not only that, but I never ordered it prepared. Declaring a state of emergency never even crossed my mind. Precisely in order to avoid it, I decided that the public administration should not work during the strike. A state of emergency is an extreme measure, and the situation that existed in those days, particularly on Friday evening, once the strike was over, did not merit the declaration of a state of emergency. Although I am not a very experienced politician, I do have some experience, as well as some common sense, and I would not make such a mistake.

[Question] I would like to refer to your trip to the United States. I think all Ecuadoreans find it important to hear directly from you what you, as president of the republic, expect to obtain during this trip.

[Answer] That is explained in the letter that I sent to the Court of Constitutional Guarantees. In the first place, I will explain Ecuador's economic realities and prospects to a group of representatives of the most important oil companies and the financial world. Although faced with very serious problems, ours are short-term or circumstantial problems. I am very optimistic about Ecuador over the medium and long term, about the future of our economy and, no doubt, about the future of our democracy. But we must overcome this critical period. Those in charge of important economic activities in the international arena must hear from the Ecuadorean head of state about Ecuador's economic prospects and about how, despite the problems mentioned earlier, our country is still a peaceful oasis in this continent, where there is a certain security for both people and property. It is necessary that the world of oil and finance should learn about this.

Furthermore, I would like to discuss the specific topic of the new legal framework in the oil sector.

In the second place, I would like to review something I have already mentioned repeatedly; the international crisis. Some people feel, or rather have said, that the Ecuadorean president wants the international technicians to solve his problems. Luckily I made (?my) decisions before the ECLA and SELA experts answered my letter. I think, however, that despite the decisions made to readjust their economies domestically, unless the Third World countries receive a suitable flow of financial resources and unless the conditions for international trade are modified, these painful decisions we are making will not have the desired results. It is advisable to reiterate this at the United Nations, at the meeting that I will hold with the Latin American group, and at the OAS. This will be the central topic that I will discuss at those forums; not only at those forums, but at the talk I will hold with the U.S. President as well. To all this we must add bilateral or multilateral problems or issues of interest to both our governments. These issues will be reviewed during the talks included in the agenda that has already been published.

[Question] One of the key hemispheric problems right now is the Central American situation. Do you plan to discuss this with Mr Reagan?

[Answer] It will not be the key issue during my trip. However, I do believe that the Central American problem is a grave political problem. I am not saying that it won't be the key issue because I underestimate it, but because I think that at this point there is an even more serious problem here in Latin America, that of the economic crisis.

At this point, the Central American problem is basically a political problem. But all the Latin American countries can enter seriously destablizing processes as a result of the international crisis. The industrialized world must become aware of this, including the most powerful country, the United States. Unless there is collaboration from the industrialized world to enable the Latin American countries to resolve their grave crisis, the situation might reach insurmountable proportions. As for the specific Central American issue, Ecuador will join any viable or possible peace initiative. Concerning this, Ecuador will not take any initiative on its own.

[Question] Mr President, I would like to echo the concern that (Gonzalo Ortila) voiced initially about your trip to the United States. President Reagan, with his pragmatism, with his sometimes brutally pragmatic policy, has forsaken multilateral policy and embraced bilateralism, which is certainly more pragmatic and best suited to achieving U.S. goals than bilateral [as heard] negotiation. In any event, and this being just a circumstancial issue or the fruit of mere speculation about possible support for the policy on Central America, one can always ask what your position would be regarding a possible U.S. request for some quid pro quo in answer to Ecuador's proposals.

[Answer] I feel that the foreign policy that has been pursued by the government I head during these last 22 months and the trips I have made to three countries have shown that on none of these occasions have I jeopardized Ecuador's independence, sovereignty or dignity. This independence, sovereignty and dignity will be borne very much in mind during my trip to the United States of North America. In fact, the Ecuadorean people may feel very certain about it. It is true that the U.S. President has attached more importance to bilateralism, and that I have already criticized this conduct toward Latin America and all countries in the world in general, in a speech delivered at the Venezuelan congress. I think that bilateralism is not the right path to solve the continent's problems. I will have an opportunity to reiterate this view during my trip.

[Question] In order to avoid a repetition of the measures that resulted in 1982 from the supervening factors we have already mentioned, will it not be necessary for the government to take some step to shorten the length of the marathonic election campaign? Because from now to the runoff election, there will be almost 15 months during which nobody will invest anything due to the uncertainty about the winners; there will be no new job openings; and there will be no new uses of natural resources. Therefore, will this not be the main danger to the stabilization plan in the coming months?

[Answer] Regarding your second question, I think that in the future we will have to hold election campaigns to no longer than 3 months, including the two rounds of the elections. Unfortunately, Ecuador's vote counting mechanisms are very antiquated and take a long time. However, the day we develop a more automated voting system there probably will be 15 days, and perhaps less, between the first and the second rounds of the election. As for the election campaign, I advocated fixing a limit, -- a brief one, as a matter of fact -- for the election campaign during my tenure as member of the commission that drafted the law on elections.

Unfortunately, traditions always prevail in Ecuador and I don't think if this is the most appropriate time to propose a reform of this nature, which could be interpreted in the present, suspicious political climate, as a desire on the part of this government to commit some fraud through this and therefore keep public opinion from being freely expressed during the elections. Therefore, I would not be inclined to propose a reform of this nature.

On the other hand, I think that the election campaign itself will not bring serious difficulties in regard to the growth and development of economic activities. What may create problems is perhaps a possible desire on the part of many people, institutions or firms to wait and see who is elected president. However, we will not learn this until May 1984, whether the election campaign is brief or long. This date does not change.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER SAYS HE WILL RESIGN

PA292018 Paris AFP in Spanish 1945 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Quito, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Galo Garcia Feraud, government (interior) minister of Ecuador, announced today that he will tender his irrevocable resignation in the coming days to President Oswaldo Hurtado. The minister, who was attending a police ceremony, told newsmen that he considered this was the proper time to present his resignation to the chief of state, and that he will do so in the coming days.

Garcia Feraud is the only minister who has remained in his post ever since democracy was installed in August 1979. He was first education minister, and later took the post of government minister.

Garcia stated that the reason for his resignation should be attributed to the fact that he is tired, and not to pressures. He added that he will continue in his private activities, perhaps in the teaching field. He was formerly dean of the law school at Guayaquil University, the second largest in the country.

GROUPS ATTACK VARIOUS PARTIES' HEADQUARTERS

PA251917 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The headquarters of the Concentration of Popular Forces and the home of this party's director were both fired on by a group riding in a vehicle. One of those in the group has been identified as (Scotland Cardenas), who has a police record as a terrorist.

The political headquarters of the People, Change and Democracy, Roldosist People's Party, located at Quito and Pedro Pablo Gomez Streets, was also stoned by groups of demonstrators. The building that houses the government's party was also looted and all its windows were broken.

MINISTER REPORTS ON MEETING WITH FUT LEADERS

PA252000 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Report by (Vicente Vieira)]

[Excerpt] A news conference held at the office of Vladimiro Alvarez Grau, minister of labor and human resources, ended a few minutes ago. At the news conference, Alvarez told journalists what we already announced this morning, since we were present at the closing of the dialogue held until early this morning between members of FUT [Single Workers Front] and the labor minister; the dialogue held until the wee morning hours was a total failure.

According to the labor minister, the meeting was held exclusively to discuss the government's stand on the various points raised by the FUT. The government absolutely refused to rescind the economic measures it adopted. The government also refused to dismiss the members of the economic front.

The minister stressed that the government is willing to review wages through a commission of Labor Ministry officials and representatives labor and management.

The FUT rejected all of these government positions. Its representatives withdrew from the meeting determined to continue the strike indefinitely.

It must be noted that while the workers and the government go on with this struggle characterized by unyielding positions, the public has responded by urging each side to yield, and by demanding just measures, especially on behalf of the needier sectors.

Negotiations' Break Announced

PA272145 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Statement by Single Workers' Front leader Froilan Asanza; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] The Single Workers' Front, FUT, and the strike board committee have decided to suspend the strike and resume it on 18 April. At the same time, they call all active sectors of the Ecuadorean people to continue and to redouble the struggle through every action to achieve immediate attention to the 10-point struggle platform. We again condemn the regime's antieconomic, unpopular policy, its submission to the oligarchy and the imperialism, and its repressive, authoritative nature.

We demand the unconditional release of detained fellow workers, exemplary punishment for the murderers of student (Gerardo Cuenca), the immediate return to their jobs of leader and rank and file fellow workers detained for their participation in this glorious drive, particularly the fellow workers from the Esmeralda State refining plant.

We also condemn the National Chamber of Representatives for its complicity with the government, as well as the parliamentary blocs and the political parties, who refused to heed the proposals of the workers (?on strike).

FUT has decided to suspend all talks with the executive branch and its representatives until the economic group has been dismissed.

We reject President Hurtado's trip to the United States because it means the submission of the country to impositions of imperialism. We call the Ecuadorean people to hold large rallies and mobilizations all over the country on the day of his trip.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

PA250258 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 24 Mar 83

[News conference granted by Government and Justice Minister Galo Garcia on 24 March in Quito -- live]

[Excerpts] At this time, at this very moment, the labor minister is in his office waiting for the leaders of the United Workers Front, FUT, to continue the dialogue that was suspended at daybreak today, so that after a profound analysis of the national government positions the two sides can come closer in order to arrive at the conclusions necessary for a return to normalcy.

We are hoping that this dialogue will take place, and that the labor minister will be able to have this session with the FUT leaders to search for clear solutions to the problems being discussed.

Meanwhile, the country needs work. It requires from each one of us an effective contribution. No Ecuadorean should deprive the country of his work, which is what the country needs in order to prevent additional economic loss that would have a harmful effect on the current situation we are experiencing in Ecuador, which we must face with a firm decision to work.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to reiterate on behalf of the national government a call to end the strikes.

Additionally, I want to reaffirm what the secretary general of information said a few minutes ago. It is totally false that the national government has declared a state of emergency in the country, and that it has given itself exceptional powers. The decree issued on Tuesday of this week -- based on the authority to which the president is entitled -- in relation to the suspension of work in government offices was a decision arrived at to safeguard the people's safety and lives, and in this way prevent the interruption -- even if only momentarily -- of the constitutional rights and constitutional guarantees all Ecuadoreans have.

[Question] [Words indistinct] the leaders of FUT have extended the strike indefinitely. Will the government [words indistinct]?

[Answer] The government has always had a policy of making sure that we act according to the channels appropriate to the de jure state, constitutionality and the country's requirements. We regret that the decision you have mentioned has been made. The national government is not aware of this decision. I don't believe the media have reported it up to now; however, if you say that this decision has been adopted, we regret it.

[Question] [Words indistinct] that the joint command of the armed forces met [words indistinct]?

[Answer] That is false. I am not the government's spokesman when it comes to matters related to the armed forces; however, since it is necessary to be clear and specific on certain matters and stories, I must answer and tell you that this story is absolutely false.

[Question] One of the reasons for the continuation of the workers strike is the fact that the president of the National Congress has not agreed to call congress to a special session. What is your opinion on this?

[Answer] I think that statements have been made within the Chamber of Representatives -- and particularly at meetings of the various parliamentary blocs -- that reflect the philosophies of each political sector represented. We respect the authority of each one of the government branches. We do not interfere in their activities. We respect their decisions, and in this case, in answer to your question, I insist on this government policy; we respect the chamber's decision.

[Question] Mr Minister, at this time, in view of the difficult economic and social situation in the country, how would you describe the current political situation of the country?

[Answer] I think that there are always problems of political nature when the general situation in a society is affected by very complicated factors. But also in difficult times, institutions are tested, and I think that Ecuador's institutionality is giving a clear answer at this time. The answer is that we must open our eyes, step on firm ground, weigh circumstances objectively and find the best solutions to our social and economic problems.

[Question] Mr Minister, do you have any information as to the number of persons arrested?

[Answer] There are less than 50. Naturally, police authorities will immediately refer them to the appropriate courts. On this occasion, we have been extremely cautious in order to arrest the least possible number of people. Only in very extreme cases have police authorities had to proceed with arrests. But we would prefer not to have any. This is a general policy in the system of social rehabilitation centers, and particularly under present circumstances.

[Question] Does the government expect the situation to be quite normal and peaceful tomorrow?

[Answer] I think that after 48 hours of an unnecessary suspension of activities in the country, and in face of the repeated calls you have made as well as the various columnists that have addressed the subject, there should be hope in the hearts and minds of Ecuadoreans that we will all give our quota, our contribution for the return of work and order in the country.

FOREIGN DEBT ROSE 26.8 PERCENT IN 1982

PY291343 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Mar 83 p 10

[Excerpts] According to official information, Paraguay's foreign debt amounted to $1,203,500,000 on 31 December 1982. This means an increase of 26.8 percent over the $946,600,000 debt which the nation had in 1981. Thus, the current per capita debt is $398.11.

Of the $1,203,500,000, the public sector owes $1,030,800,000, that is, 85.6 percent of the overall debt, while the private sector is responsible for the remaining 14.3 percent [percentages as published] amounting to $172,700,000.

According to the estimates which the Central Bank issued last November, the nation will have to pay $156,000,000 to service its foreign debt in 1983. Of this amount, $98,300,000 will be amortizations and $57,700,000 will go to pay interest.

International Reserves Decline

PY232303 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Mar 83 p 13

[Excerpt] The net international monetary reserves of the Central Bank of Paraguay (BCP) dropped to $642.4 million during January. This is the lowest figure in the past 30 months. The present per capita reserve is $212.5, while 6 months ago it was of $261.8. This means that the per capita reserve decreased by 19 percent in the past six months, a BCP official stated.

According to BCP records, international monetary reserves dropped from $652 million at the end of December 1982 to $642.4 million in January 1983. The drop in the international monetary reserves was brought about mainly by the decline in the convertible foreign currency reserves. The decline totalled $11.8 million. According to official data, the funds in LAIA's [Latin American Integration Association] multilateral account also decreased.

FINANCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM IDB MEETING

PY251338 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Mar 83 p 11

[Excerpt] On his return from Panama, Finance Minister General Cesar Barrientos stated that during the recent meeting of IDB governors in that country, our country did not ask the IDB to finance any type of project. "We then talked with Dr (Antonio Ortiz) Mena about these matters, and we have to submit plans for the projects," he stated after his arrival at 1700 at President Stroessner Airport.

GOVERNMENT BARS DOMINGO LAINO'S RETURN

PY252139 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 Mar 83 p 7

[Text] At approximately 1000 today, Domingo Laino's attempt to peacefully return to the country came to naught. The police barred his entry and the exiled vice president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] was not allowed to get off the Aerolines Argentinas plane on which he travelled to Asuncion accompanied by PLRA Secretary Miguel Abdon Saguier.

At the international airport Laino was awaited by his wife, Rafaela Guanes Gondra de Laino; PLRA President Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin; Carmen Casco Miranda de Lara Castro, and other important party figures.

A long time passed before it became known what the decision was regarding Laino and his companion. Since access to the airport terminal apron was not permitted, Laino's presence in the plane had to be confirmed by other passengers as they came out. It was then also confirmed that Laino had returned to Buenos Aires and that his companion, Saguier, was taken to the police investigative department.

It should be recalled that in a 2 February press interview, Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro warned that "those characters Laino and Resck cannot return to the country."

Regarding these events, the Police Public Relations Department issued the following communique:

"Despite repeated warnings to Mr Domingo Laino through the Interior Ministry not to return to the country, he did return in violation of measures which the government has adopted. Therefore, he was not permitted to disembark from the plane that he arrived on and departed on the same plane."

OPPOSITION CONGRESSWOMAN DENIED PASSPORT

PY241702 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Mar 83 p 12

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Radical Liberal Party Deputy Ligia Prieto Centurion denounced the refusal by the police authorities of our country to grant her a passport. "I am another prisoner within the country," the member of Congress said, referring to other members of the opposition who are in the same situation because they were also refused passports when they wanted to travel.

Mrs Centurion stated that she requested a police passport on Monday in order to travel to the FRG for family reasons, and that yesterday the chief of the police identifications department, Salim Yubi, told her that in view of "orders from above," he could not grant her a passport.

The opposition congresswoman then went to the Interior Ministry yesterday to talk with Minister Sabino A. Montanaro. As she could not get to see the minister, she asked for an interview with Under Secretary Miguel Angel Bestard, whom she did not see either.

She added that she then visited the president of the Chamber of Deputies, J. Augusto Saldivar, to submit her charge to him. Saldivar presumably promised to speak to Minister Montanaro about the matter. Despite this fact, the Radical Liberal deputy stated that she will submit a charge to the Chamber of Deputies and to international organizations.

BRIEFS

OUTGOING MEXICAN AMBASSADOR -- The Mexican ambassador, Lt Col (Ret) Guillermo Alberto Robles, yesterday paid a going away courtesy call on President Alfredo Stroessner. [Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 24 Feb 83 p 3 PY]

NEW ROK AMBASSADOR -- Kim Sok-kyu presented his credentials to President Alfredo Stroessner this morning as the new ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Paraguay. [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p 8 PY]

JANUARY TRADE BALANCE -- The country's trade balance deficit totalled $21,379,000 in January. Our exports amounted to $8,784,000 and our imports $30,163,000. If compared to the January 1982 figures, Paraguay's exports dropped by 14.9 percent and imports by 9.7 percent. These figures were released by the Central Bank. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 16 Mar 83 p 9 PY]

TERRORIST ATTACKS IN AYACUCHO, CUSCO, AREQUIPA

PY291545 Paris AFP in Spanish 1637 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Lima, 27 Mar (AFP) -- The military-political command of Ayacucho has revealed that three Maoist Shining Path terrorists and two peasants died during a violent clash which occurred in Sacsamarca, Ayacucho Province, on Saturday. The village of Sacsamarca is located 575 km southeast of Lima.

Approximately 34 armed subversives burst into the town to indoctrinate the community. However, as the community members showed little interest in their teachings, the terrorists began to shoot at them. The military-political command stated that peasants Antonio Janampa and Dionisio Huacache died during the attck. The attack caused a violent reaction from the peasants, who in turn killed three terrorists with sticks, stones and machetes. The other terrorists reportedly managed to flee.

Similarly, three dynamite attacks occurred in the city of Cusco -- 1,000 km southeast of Lima -- in the past 72 hours. The first attack was made against the barracks of the 27 November Army unit. A bomb exploded at the main gate of the barracks but caused no major damage. The second incident occurred on Thursday night when an explosive device exploded in the garden of a top military officer's residence. The third attack was made against the headquarters of the Peruvian-U.S. Cultural Institute, where two explosives went off, causing some material damage. At the same time, another bomb exploded yesterday at the premises of the Banco Internacional of Arequipa, 1,022 km south of Lima.

Terrorists Killed in Ayacucho

PY232128 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Seven members of the Shining Path terrorist organization were killed in two clashes with security forces. Five of them died in a clash with combined army and police forces in (Tiopampa), Victor Fajardo Province, 188 kilometers south of Ayacucho. Two more terrorists were killed in Concepcion, Cangallo Province, when they attempted to attack the police. The terrorists were identified as (Felix Ramirez), 32; and (Macedonio Fernandez), 36.

The five terrorists killed in the first clash, which lasted 30 minutes, were not identified. Military sources reported, however, that 15 terrorists were unexpectedly attacked by a patrol. Several of them were wounded while others managed to flee. Security forces seized rifles, revolvers, 28 dynamite sticks and other materiel.

HAVANA: REGIME SEEKS U.S. MILITARY AID

PA282342 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The Lima newspaper EL OBSERVADOR has reported that the Belaunde Terry government is trying to get military aid from the United States. The aid would be used to fight the Shining Path group, which is becoming increasingly strong in Ayacucho.

ECONOMY MINISTER DISCUSSES EXCHANGE POLICY

PY242017 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] After revealing that the country's international reserves are $900 million, Economy, Finance and Commerce Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor yesterday asked the people in general and savers in particular to have confidence in the government's current exchange policies. He said that the executive branch has no intention of changing the free exchange system or the foreign exchange certification regulation now in force because it believes that there is no reason to change a system which is working perfectly well.

He said that, unlike the comments regarding Decree 048, which was published during his absence, the government is not planning any changes in the exchange policy because this decision was established in the economic program announced by Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb in Congress. He explained that in reality, Decree 048 refers to the tax exemption on any foreign currency returned to the country by 30 June.

Rodriguez Pastor pointed out during his conversation with the press upon leaving Government Palace that "Beginning on 1 July there will be no changes regarding foreign currency either, because I believe it would be crazy to try to change a regulation which is working out well." He emphasized that Peru is not going through any emergency situation that would require such a measure, particularly now that the government has successfully achieved the financing of its foreign debt.

Regarding international reserves, he said that Peru has a gross reserve of $2 billion, and that by deducting is bank obligations, there is a net left of $900 million. He added that this amount is quite sufficient to cover needed imports. He said: "It is really a very comfortable amount which represents three times the value of monthly imports."

He also announced that his ministry is studying a series of measures in support of Peruvian industry regarding credits, general incentives and measures against smuggling aimed at helping industry. He fully agreed with the declaration of the Popular Christian Party (PPC), saying that his ministry also wants Peruvian industry to become efficient, modern and geared for exports and to compete in the large consumer markets. He added: "This is very important for production, job creation and earning foreign currency, and this is why I believe this sector must have top priority. I want to help this along."

He said that keeping this objective in mind, the FENT (Fund for Non-Traditional Exports) was kept in the agreements recently reached with the international banks as a measure for stimulating this kind of economic activity. He said, however, that there will probably be some delay, but that the important thing is that the FENT was maintained.

BRIEFS

SATELLITE RECEIVING STATION -- Through an agreement signed by the Huancavelica Department Development Corporation and the National Communications Institute, Huancavelica Department will soon have s new satellite receiving station and four television relay stations. [Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 83 PY]

CAF LOAN -- Peruvian Industry, Tourism and Integration Minister Gonzalo de la Puente Lavalle has announced that the Andean Development Corporation [CAF] granted an $85 million loan to Peru. This loan will be earmarked for improving roads in Cusco, Juliaca, Ilo, Desaguadero and Huaquis. He made the announcement upon returning from Caracas. [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 83 PY]

PRESIDENT PLEDGES TO HONOR OIL COMMITMENTS

PA251953 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0231 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Caracas, 24 Mar (EFE) -- Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins today confirmed that his country will comply with its commitments to supply petroleum to various Central American and Caribbean countries under favorable conditions. Such commitments, which are shared with Mexico, derive from an August 1980 agreement signed in San Jose, Costa Rica. According to the Venezuelan president, after complying with the current year's obligation, "if necessary, some revision to reflect the changes in the international oil situation will be made."

At noon, the Venezuelan head of state had an informal talk with a group of foreign correspondents. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco and Deputy Information Minister Ivonne Attas. Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco reiterated that Venezuela guarantees the fulfillment of its commitments. He recalled that Venezuela's oil contribution must be considered a contribution to the defense of raw materials and to the solidarity among Central American and Caribbean countries.

DISIP DIRECTOR RESIGNS, REPLACEMENT APPOINTED

PA242100 Paris AFP in Spanish 2248 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Caracas, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Remberto Uzcategui Bruzual, director of Venezuela's Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [DISIP], resigned his post today after being criticized by the general prosecutor. The interior minister immediately appointed Arpad Bango to replace him. Bango had been deputy director of the Security Corps.

It was reported that Uzcategui Bruzual's resignation was due to an alleged abuse of authority on 10 March 1983 when he authorized DISIP agents in combat gear and field uniforms to raid the offices of the nation's attorney general, where presidential candidate Jorge Olavarria happened to be at the time.

PRISONERS' RELATIVES OCCUPY OFFICE IN MATURIN

PA290255 Paris AFP in Spanish 2256 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Caracas, 28 Mar (AFP) -- Three relatives of Venezuelan political prisoners today occupied the prosecutor general's office in Maturin, 518 km southeast of Caracas, a woman who is a member of the Committee of Relatives and Friends of Revolutionary Political Prisoners told AFP by telephone.

This afternoon, four women and three men who are relatives of the political prisoners peacefully occupied the Mexican Embassy. On Sunday morning, the nine women and five children who had been occupying the Swedish Embassy since Thursday were evicted.

The occupiers are demanding from the Christian Democratic government of President Luis Herrera Campins better treatment for the country's 58 political prisoners, especially the 19 extreme leftists imprisoned in the San Carlos garrison in Caracas. The committee charged that those 19 prisoners, who went on a hunger strike 22 days ago, are being mistreated by their guards. The woman who called AFP also said that the three occupiers of the prosecutor general's office in Maturin have also begun a hunger strike.

VENEZUELA'S CALDERON BERTI VIEWS OIL MARKET

FL251427 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0329 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Mansion Galindo, Queretaro, 24 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti today said that OPEC has a positive attitude toward the position assumed by Mexico to face the world's oil crisis. The minister was interviewed during a recess of the meeting of OLADE ministers being held here to analyze aspects of the Latin American Energy Cooperation Program.

He noted that Mexico and OPEC are committed to the defense of the $29 price per barrel of light crude and to respecting export levels, which for OPEC represent 17.5 million barrels per day and for Mexico 1.5 million. Calderon Berti warned that certain oil producing nations which do not belong to OPEC, the United Kingdom and Norway among them, might follow a policy different from that of OPEC and lower their prices.

The Venezuelan minister noted that if the export quotas assigned by OPEC are respected, then there could be a recovery in the market which could result in an increase in prices with a decrease in the difference between the fixed crude oil price and the free market or spot price.

Calderon Berti noted that 1979 and 1980 were years of crisis for consumers and that 1982 and 1983 have been characterized by a crisis that affects the oil-producing countries. He said that an understanding between producers and consumers to guarantee a sure and constant supply as well as the acquisition of large quantities of crude would be advisable and healthy. He stated that the increases in oil prices during 1979 and 1980 caused problems for the producing countries because they were not used to absorb such large sums of money and it resulted in inflation and increases in exhorbitant expenditures and investment programs.

Calderon Berti issued a call to oil-exporting countries to join efforts in order to prevent the U.S. congress from establishing an oil import tariff of $5 per barrel, because this would further hurt the economy of oil producers.

TRINATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY TO BE SET UP

FL282218 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2250 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 26 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela will conduct oil exploratory work in Nicaragua prior to the creation of the Petrolatin oil trinational enterprise, the Brazilian Energy Minister announced here today. Cesar Cals said that research work to locate coal will also be conducted in Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras as well as in other areas of Latin America which could benefit from their natural resources.

Prior to returning to his country, he stated that these arrangements are part of the preparatory work to create in a not too distant future the trinational enterprise named Petrolatin, which will be responsible for supplying technical support in matters dealing with hydrocarbons and minerals. Likewise, he said, these actions are part of the agreements reached during the eighth OLADE ministers meeting, recently held in Queretaro, in the western part of the country. Cals referred to the research work developed in his country and cited as example the substitution in domestic consumption of 60,000 barrels of oil daily with an equivalent amount of alcohol at a cost of 40 percent cheaper than regular gasoline.

AMADO RETRACTS UN AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS

PA260147 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado has explained the Panamanian stand on the Central American situation. He did this in a document that was delivered to our press room this afternoon by a Foreign Ministry official. According to the document, when Foreign Minister Amado was asked the Panamanian stand on the Central American conflict, he said: Panama has on many occasions stressed the urgent need for immediate and permanent peace in the region.

Foreign Minister Amado added: This was declared at the recent foreign ministers meeting on Contadora Island, where, together with our Mexican, Venezuelan and Colombian colleagues, we insisted that it must be the parties in conflict that solve their own problems. In reality, Minister Amado said, warmongering actions and attitudes that foster tension, conflicts and violence are not elements that favor the achievement of this objective. The radicalized positions that could develop in each of the area's countries can't help the situation either. To achieve peaceful coexistence, it is indispensable that the peoples secure for themselves an authentic democratic process, in which they can determine the best path for their political, economic and social development, within a framework of freedom and respect.

When asked how these statements could be compared with the stand taken by Ozores, the Panamanian ambassador at the United Nations, Minister Amado said that Ambassador Ozores overstepped himself and probably colored his statements with his personal opinion, which unfortunately, does not currently reflect the thrust of our foreign relations, as declared by the Foreign Ministry in an official communique issued Friday. In this context, Amado added, it is vitally important that the distinguished members of our diplomatic missions limit themselves exclusively to the policies outlined by the Presidency of the Republic and the Foreign Ministry. For this reason, we emphatically stressed, in our communique issued on Friday, the urgent need to permit efforts favoring dialogue and understanding to overcome the emotions created by general criticism and condemnation, which are not positive elements in achieving immediate solutions to existing conflicts.

Asked about the Panamanian Government's reaction to U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick's statements, Minister Amado said: We would have to be dreamers to define the area's problems as Ambassador Kirkpatrick wishes, in very simple terms, which describe the Central American conflict within the context of an East-West confrontation.

Recalling the visit to Panama by the distinguished U.S. diplomat, Amado said: We agreed generally that the problem of Central America is made more complex by the deep-rooted frustrations experienced by the area's peoples in their efforts to improve themselves. The existing anxieties are the product of their desire to improve their social and economic situation, as well as to participate in the management of their nations' political responsibility and destiny.

Foreign Minister Amado explained the country's position on U.S. accusations that Panamanian foreign policy has been rendered an ally of international communism by saying: Panama, in the management of its international relations and in its responsibility to put forth its best efforts to achieve solutions to the very serious and delicate conflicts experienced in today's world, has no reason to, and will not enter into any kind of arrangements with blocs or ideological groups or with nations or states that do not respond to the problems being experienced.

Were we to do so, we would cause division or create conditions of exclusion or isolation that would only make the current problem worse. Panama has also made every effort to promote dialogue and peace. Our own democratic structure and tradition demands, out of respect for our own people, that we maintain a national and international policy that is free of any commitment that does not correspond to the Panamanians' genuine feelings. Panama's interest in offering its good offices to resolve the current crisis peacefully must not and cannot be interpreted as an affinity for particular groups or ideologies. Our position and our line of action is upright and independent, so that it may be followed with justice and equality. We have, and will continue to have a close traditional friendship and good socioeconomic relations with the countries of the Western Hemisphere and will continue to put forth all of our efforts to maintain those relations.

PAREDES' 'VACATION' TRIP SAID DUE TO ILLNESS

PA291847 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Mar 83 p 1A

[Text] The Directorate of Public Relations of the National Guard has reported that General Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the National Guard, left yesterday for Miami on a vacation trip with his wife, Elvira de Paredes, taking advantage of holy week. However, according to unofficial reports obtained by LA PRENSA, the plane on which Paredes was traveling only made a stop in Miami and then flew on to Syracuse, New York, where he was attended at a local hospital. According to reliable sources, Paredes traveled in the company of doctors Carlos Garcia and Roger Galvez. Paredes recently developed thrombophlebitis and had to remain hospitalized for 1 week at the Paitilla Medical Center. It has not been learned if the trip is for a routine medical checkup, or if he has developed complications. On that occasion it was denied that his hospitalization was due to health problems.

General Paredes was also accompanied by Colonel Cecilio Eloy Fisher, G-1 of the National Guard General Staff, the members of the General Staff, led by Colonel Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the General Staff, and Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, deputy chief and G-2 of the General Staff, saw General Paredes off at the Panamanian Air Force installations.

PRESIDENT, GUARD STAFF IN CLOSED-DOOR MEETING

PA291757 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The president of the republic, the ministers and the members of the National Guard General Staff are analyzing the country's problems at a closed-door meeting. Here is Rene Hernandez to provide more details:

[Begin relay in progress] ...Presidency said that the Cabinet meeting scheduled for today was postponed until tomorrow. President Ricardo de la Espriella has been meeting since early this morning with the ministers and members of the General Staff. Sources close to the Presidency stressed that this is an informal meeting in which the president is going to talk with the ministers and the members of the National Guard about several things that are causing concern to the citizenry. Although the topics being discussed at the meeting at the amphitheater in the Presidency have not been announced, everything indicates that the reforms to the constitution, the problem of the workers of the state-run sugar mills and a drop in [the price of] oil byproducts might be on the agenda. The meeting is being held at a time when national guard commander Brigadier General Ruben D. Paredes is on vacation in the United States. Yesterday the special commission appointed by the president to analyze the problem of fuel prices held a closed-door meeting at the Commerce Ministry.

Our news team tried to get into the amphitheater at the Presidency, but they were told by the security guards that it was a closed-door meeting. An information office spokesman said that early this afternoon an official report would be issued on the topics that were discussed at this morning's meeting.

A source close to the government said yesterday that the president will be delivering a speech to the nation at any minute to explain certain matters of vital importance to the Panamanian people. Tomorrow the [constitutional] Reform Commission will turn over the final draft -- which took them more than 4 months to prepare -- to the president.

G-2's Comments

PA292345 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] This morning a general council of state was held at the Presidential Palace. The Cabinet was informed of the constitutional reforms presented by the committee appointed to study the reforms. The meeting, headed by Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella, was attended by the National Guard General Staff and the chiefs of the different military zones, who asked the members of the committee about various aspects of the reforms, particularly those aspects regarding the electoral districts and matters that concern the National Guard.

At the end of this meeting, which lasted more than 4 hours, Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, G-2 of the National Guard General Staff, made a short press statement for the press explaining what was discussed. This is his statement:

[Begin recording] The most important thing was that we held a meeting attended by the whole Cabinet, the members of the Supreme Court of Justice, electoral tribunal magistrates, chiefs and officers of the National Guard. During the meeting the members of the commission responsible for reviewing the constitution, headed by Jorge Fabrega, gave us an overall explanation of the reforms, the main aspects of the reforms. The meeting lasted approximately 3 hours. We received an overall explanation of these reforms that, once approved and signed by the political parties, will be made public.

[Question] How do you explain this meeting between the president and the General Staff at a time when General Paredes is on vacation?

[Answer] General Paredes is on vacation but the National Guard continues to function through its organization.

[Question] Colonel, your opinion regarding the reforms, especially regarding article 2.

[Answer] This has not been presented to the executive, but once it is, the National Guard will make a statement on the matters that concern us.

[Answer -- Unidentified speaker] There is an important matter and this is that I understand that a statement made this morning will be made public.

[Question] Opposition parties have said that there has been National Guard interference in the work of the commission. What is your opinion regarding this?

[Answer] This can't be accepted or denied. It is just not true. [end recording]

CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD, CANAL BRIDGE POSTPONED

PA290355 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] A Panamanian mission made up of Public Works Minister Hector Ortega, Planning and Economic Policy Minister Menalco Solis and Presidency Minister Gabriel Castro met over the weekend with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins. On their return, the state's Information and Public Relations Office issued the following communique:

In light of the country's financial situation and the priorities of the investment plan, the government has decided to postpone execution of the contract for construction of the Arraijan-Panama City Highway that includes a new bridge over the Panama Canal, and whose contractor is the Industrias Metalurgicas Van Dam-Sosa y Barbero Constructores Consortium and whose financing comes from a cooperation program between Panama and Venezuela. The Public Works ministry will adopt the measures necessary to conserve and maintain the work already done and to safeguard the interests of the nation and the parties involved in this project.

The government recognizes and is grateful for the support that the Venezuelan Government, through President Luis Herrera Campins has granted it, maintaining the availability of funds and technology for the execution of this project. It is also grateful for Venezuela's continued and resolute support for all the financing and economic cooperation programs in harmony with its Bolivarian commitment.

[Signed] Public Works Minister Hector Ortega.

COSTA RICA

CUBANS SAID TO BE PRESSING FOR CONSULATE

PA290431 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Mar 83 p 11-A

["Secret" column of the Free Costa Rica Movement]

[Text] There is real concern in some circles about the pressure that the Cuban dictator is applying, through sympathizers infiltrated into our government, to reestablish a Cuban Consulate in Costa Rica.

The invitation to deputies and now to public officials to visit Cuba forms part of a plan by that dictatorship to apply pressure on majority sectors of the Costa Rican Government which believe that reinstatement of a mission from the communist regime would have serious consequences to our security. A few days ago, two Cuban intelligence agents staying in the Playboy Hotel established contact with extremist Marxist elements here.

A Cuban in another San Jose hotel has been tasked with establishing contact in official circles, especially within the Presidential House. Two former Costa Rican ministers are cooperating with the Cubans in drawing up techniques on how to apply this kind of pressure.

COMMUNIST DEPUTY DISCLOSES 'U.S. PLAN'

PA260250 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] San Jose -- Communist Deputy Arnoldo Ferreto has revealed that there exists a plan, prepared by warmongering sectors of the U.S. Administration, to establish an anti-Sandinist operations base in northern Costa Rica. During a debate at the University of Costa Rica, the parliamentary member said that there is great U.S. interest in the so-called development plan for the northern zone. He revealed that one of the goals of this U.S. plan -- which also envisages Israeli participation -- is the establishment of a cordon to isolate Nicaragua and to permit counterrevolutionary actions.

He added that, in order to cover up these main objectives, these sectors talk of agricultural development, infrastructural work, commercialization and other plans, which would be used as a justification for the large investment involved. Ferreto said, finally, that Costa Rica must remain neutral in both word and deed.

EL SALVADOR

D'AUBUISSON INSISTS THAT DEFENSE MINISTER RESIGN

PA292023 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1634 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, president of the Constituent Assembly, has said that Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia should resign his post to lend credibility to the approaching electoral process.

Speaking last night on a television program, D'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), said that Garcia and the ranking military officers were responsible for taking Alvaro Magana to the presidency last year, " nefarious decision that the Arena party completely opposed." He added that the past 28 March elections were "a glorious event for the Salvadoran people, distorted by the people who imposed Magana as president and appointed independent members to the cabinet, when it was the political parties that had promoted the elections."

D'Aubuisson Party Statement

PA292340 San Salvador Domestic Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Statement by Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance Party, on special party program to commemorate the first anniversary of the Salvadoran 28 March elections; broadcast on Channels 2, 4 and 6; place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] Salvadoran people: The 28 March events are the greatest deeds that you and all of us have carried out for the salvation of our fatherland. But so that you will clearly know the substance of our message, we state that we know that in very few months we will once again be involved in another electoral struggle. We will once again participate in elections to shape our democratization process. Just as in those past elections, you true Salvadoran people will win in these elections with perseverance and honesty. Since all of you do not want such a victory to be snatched away from you again, we are going to clearly refer to what occurred on 21 April 1982 so that this will not reoccur.

Salvadoran people: On 21 April they imposed on us the candidacy of the provisional president of the republic. They also imposed several ministers with the slogan that they were independent. Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] opposed this and did not either vote for the current provisional president or support the independent ministers. Why were independent people needed if a democratization process is based on political institutions? Nevertheless, a high-ranking armed forces leader who was about to turn over his post led that imposition and another high-ranking member of the armed forces who is still in his post, Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, endorsed it.

If you remember, when the legislative assembly was formed on 22 April and when the provisional government was elected, Arena did not vote for current President Magana. We have absolutely nothing against him in view of his ability and character. Simply on the basis of principles, we knew that we were not going to betray all of you by playing into the hands of these people who imposed this.

What have we done since 28 March? We recognize the good things in the national unity government which Arena has supported and shares in. We support those wise things. We support President Magana for having at last appointed the Human Rights Commission, the Peace Commission and the Economic Reactivation Commission. The Human Rights and Peace Commissions are fundamental for consolidating the democratization process but also for total improvement in the human rights field. However, we are not going to recognize the economic reactivation as good, because so far it has not been achieved.

Since 21 April, we have told them that this was going to fail, because an independent minister -- especially in this government, where all the economic decisions are in the hands of independents -- is not motivated by any concern to deal with the situations that you, the people, urge us, the political parties, to solve. An independent calmly accepts that if he made a mistake, he is the one that made the mistake. It is very different to say that a whole party or a whole group of parties or a whole government of national unity has made a mistake. Since then, we predicted that this was not going to work. Reality is clear. It has not worked.

Salvadoran people, that is why these next elections are, if not as interesting and important as those of that heroic 28 March 1982, perhaps more necessary. Let us decide once and for all who is going to be the president and his work team, so that we will know the rules of the game, so that we will know what to expect and so that we will know where we are headed and what we are going to do. With greater desire now, we ask you to double if possible the voter turnout on 28 March.

However, before asking a hard-working nation like ours to participate in another election, we believe it is fundamental that the government and those of us who still participate in it should create confidence and generate some of the rules of the game -- however minimal -- during the next days and months, so that we really carry out these elections.

In view of this, Arena has proposed a series of measures, and we hope the other friendly parties understand that these measures are not intended to favor any political party but are needed for the Salvadoran people, and that it is urgent and necessary to approve them.

We have proposed to the assembly that we clearly define this new and imminent agrarian cycle; that we define whether there will be a second phase to agrarian reform or interpret our need for agrarian reform. We need agrarian reform that allows more and more people to own land. We are struggling to consolidate the first phase; we are working hard in ISTA [Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation] to make a reality of these benefits for the peasants, through agrarian reform.

However, it is the second phase -- that sword of Damocles, that doubt -- which has come to reduce productivity, work and trust in our homeland.

We have requested that the second phase be free, voluntary and democratic. We have also requested that the bill presented by our friends in the National Conciliation Party, PCN, be adequately analyzed and a quick definition be given concerning a bill for economic stabilization. Thus, all those who are in debt -- because the situation has made almost all Salvadorans fall behind in their payments -- will have an answer to continue working.

We have also presented another bill under which all land that belongs to the state -- known as the traditional sector -- will be turned over to peasants who are not covered by Decree 207, The Constituent Assembly has also clearly stated that all those who are leasing or have leased land after May 1980 will not be negatively affected by Decree 207.

We are interested in seeing that this so-called third phase is efficiently consolidated. In brief, we request that the reform process be efficiently and technically consolidated before the election, so that we can continue -- as we have done, thanks to the Armed Forces -- with human rights. El Salvador has improved and continues to improve in the human rights sector. Likewise, we request that we continue the democratization process.

Regarding the human rights sector, we clearly state that if the Armed Forces increase their technical capabilities and carry out operations as they have done lately, we will efficiently carry out that human rights process, too.

However, I would like to remind you again about our concern when we remember and commemorate the 28 March anniversary. We are concerned because the person is still here who caused the 21 April events, when our sovereign will was insulted. We will formally request and state that if the democratization process is to be truly believed by our people -- who have been abused and humiliated so much -- that person, who participated in that insult, should retire in due time, at least as a matter of dignity.

We support what Companero Barrera said: We have always supported and will always support in a clearly defined way the only armed corps we recognize for our homeland; the Armed Forces. However, it is unjust for one or two people to sow so much distrust among our people towards our glorious armed corps. We are going to hold elections, and we know that Arena will win those elections. And we are not only asking and waiting for others to respect us; we will make others respect us. But it will be the people -- all of you -- who will give us this victory, and it will belong to all of us, who will demand that respect.

Our struggle is a struggle for our principles. For many years, the leaders of Arena have been predicting the atrocities we would experience. It is true that they did not believe us then, but now all of us do believe and are ready to struggle so that this does not happen again. We are all in readiness, together with God, the people and the armed forces.

We tend to forget easily, but that 21 April will never be forgotten by those of us who are involved in this democratization process. That 21 April gives us the moral authority to fight courageously, to keep you well informed, to announce the misfortunes that will afflict us -- in case we again allow another fateful 21 April.

All Salvadorans must remember with pride only that 28 March. Perhaps we should let bygones be bygones and think that next November or December -- whichever is chosen to hold elections -- we are really going to save and take our dear homeland through the road of national economic recovery. As member and representative of a political party, we are willing to negotiate and talk with all the political organizations and sectors that will be involved in this future process.

Our party held its general assembly on Saturday. It was a real assembly and not the circus that Christian Democracy unfortunately staged for us. We are not circus men or clowns. We are a responsible party that is morally strong because we know that we won on the 28th despite all that Christian Democracy did at that time to confirm as president the one who today they want to place, the blessed Napoleon Solo. [U.S. television character; referring to Napoleon Duarte]

The people are tired of all those old political leaders of Christian Democracy. That is the guarantee that we have from the new political youth that has come to say the truth, to continue to say the truth and to always maintain our position of first El Salvador, second El Salvador and third El Salvador. That is why, I repeat, that general assembly has given us leaders the authorization to talk, negotiate and reach an understanding with all those political sectors or factions that are convinced that we must once and for all eradicate the evil communitarians, because you must remember something that we have said and that has been confirmed with the current circumstances: communitarianism and communism are the same thing.

Gentlemen: In view of this entire situation, let us go back to the problem of 21 April. That is why today we are experiencing that grave crisis in which they want us political parties to approve a big tax package that is being proposed by the independent who was proposed by the defense minister and who, due to all the pressures, was appointed provisional president of the republic.

We understand the state's great need due to this big bureaucracy we have inherited. We accept and we delight in all the comments we have read in the newspapers and heard on the radio and television that the parties which make up this national unity government have not changed anything. We have inherited the same statist system and perhaps statism has increased.

We know that taxes are necessary in some areas, but we know that there are measures that could lead to the recovery of a little more revenue for the state if it weren't for the corruption that was being sponsored in recent months by those now promoting this new situation.

I want to make it clear, once and for all, that if Salvadoran Vice President Mauricio Gutierrez Castro did not sign this bill of President Magana, we deputies who are in the assembly and all the party -- we have issued instructions on this -- have no reason to continue discussing that topic. We are not going to support that tax package in the way that Dr Magana has presented it.

We are waiting to be heard. We want to be understood and believed this time. If the measures necessary for confidence are not issued, it will be very difficult to continue to talk about elections. As a party we are going to go to those elections and we are going to win. However, we know that you Salvadoran people, the true people, also need, all of us need, confidence so that there can be work and investment, and then we can speak of elections. This tax package does little to generate confidence. But the measures we have presented can help generate that confidence so that when people work and are economically reactivated, we can sit down to discuss how the state can recover the taxes that they are telling us are apparently urgent today.

To conclude [words indistinct] we gave an emphatic "no" to the position of the FMLN and the FDR. We said that its position of seizing power violently was not correct. In this next election we have to ratify and confirm that decision we made on 28 March. As Arena members, as nationalist republicans, we invite the FDR and company to participate in this next election. We want to be face to face with them with the weapons that the people authorize, the weapons that the free world authorizes: the vote.

Let the FDR gentlemen come. Let them come appear before the television cameras, the radios, the press and rallies to tell us what they are offering us, because we will also be there. In the next elections we are going to decide what we want. Let those gentlemen come so they will stop being charlatans and demagogues who only cause us harm and who offend our people and fatherland abroad, saying that they represent us. Let them come here. Let them come to the electoral arena so you noble Salvadoran people will decide in the elections the destiny that we want.

We also want to take advantage of this message to wish you a happy and peaceful holy week. Remember the wise words of his holiness, Pope John Paul II. The pope clearly told us how we should hold a dialogue, not by the pressure of weapons but by the prudence and wisdom of a free people. That is why it is opportune to wish you a happy holy week and to ask you to bear in mind the holy father's words as well as the message that the U.S. President clearly gave us in this same regard. Arena said it several months ago. We said "no" to the dialogue under the conditions that those subversives destroyers of our fatherland and people were presenting it. But no one accompanied us or supported us then when we bravely came out to say "no" to dialogue and negotiations. Now everyone says that this was the correct thing. But it doesn't matter, because we do not want to act only for the interests of a party. We have always defended and acted for our fatherland's interests.

Rest and enjoy these vacations. We will continue to constantly inform you and to give you the messages the leadership of the Arena, on behalf of the true Salvadoran people, thinks are necessary so that with enough time, you can make your decision for these next elections; so that once and for all, I repeat, we will overcome the impasse we are experiencing. Thank you very much, good night and happy vacations.

OPERATION ENDS; GARCIA DENIES UPI REPORT

PA290300 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 28 Mar 83 p 8

[Excerpt] Counterinsurgency operations by approximately 2,000 Army members ended Saturday in northern Chalatenango. The armed forces still have not reported the results. Soldiers from the military garrison of Santa Ana, Chalatenango and the Telecommunications Instruction Center participated. Twenty terrorists reportedly died during sporadic clashes near Tejutla.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister General Jose Guillermo Garcia called completely false reports that Colonels Adolfo Blandon and Juan Rafael Bustillo will be removed from their posts. The report was released by Raul Beltran through a UPI cable. General Garcia did not deny that the army has ordered these military officers reassigned, [as published] but denied rumors that he had presented his resignation, effective the end of this month.

TWO PAIS PARTY MEMBERS SHOT IN SANTA TECLA

PA290239 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 Mar 83 pp 2, 15

[Text] Two members of the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAIS, were shot to death by four unidentified men Saturday in Santa Tecla. According to the reports, 50-year-old Ruben Retana and 30-year-old Manuel Soto were in a car when four men armed with 38-cal guns suddenly approached the vehicle and shot them. The victims were waiting for Francisco Melendez, who was in his residence speaking with PAIS Deputy Juan Francisco Puquirre. According to police reports, one of the victims was probably mistaken for Puquirre, who is well known in Santa Tecla political circles. Puquirre has previously been mayor of Santa Tecla and member of the National Conciliation Party, and he is now a deputy for PAIS.

GUATEMALA

INTERIOR MINISTER DENIES SANDINIST CHARGES

PA292305 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Mar 83 p 14

[Text] Interior Minister Col Ricardo Mendez Ruiz said yesterday that Guatemala is not hiring mercenaries to fight the Nicaraguan Government. He made this statement to journalists who approached him in the National Palace. Reports from Managua state that two members of the antirrevolutionary groups captured by the Sandinist Army gave details of how they are being hired to fight the Nicaraguan regime. One said he is a Guatemalan citizen, and the Sandinists believe he could have been hired in Guatemala to join the Somozist groups trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolutionary junta, which has led this Central American country to a communist system.

Asked to comment, Colonel Mendez Ruiz said that if the reports are true, this Guatemalan could have joined the Somozist groups on his own initiative. He stressed that Guatemala would never engage in activities aimed at causing problems to another nation. Our authorities respect the principle of nonintervention in other countries' affairs. He added: The Sandinists can think whatever they want. I can assure you that it is totally false that "mercenaries are being hired here to join the Somozists."

HONDURAS

PAZ BANICA ADDRESSES UN SECURITY COUNCIL

PA291709 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Speech by Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica at the UN Security Council on 28 March -- recorded]

[Text] Mr President, Messrs Representatives: I have decided to personally participate in this debate to reiterate what the Honduran representative has already said at this international forum and to dispel any doubts that may still exist regarding my government's position on the painful internal conflict that is currently plaguing our sister republic of Nicaragua.

It is unusual for an OAS member state like Nicaragua to appear before this Security Council without having previously exhausted the regional option in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Article 52 of the UN Charter and pursuant to the provisions of the OAS Charter.

Nevertheless, my government is not shirking debate at this world organization and is participating in it in the hope that we will be able to find civilized and peaceful answers to the complex Central American problems. It is said, and I repeat it, that the Nicaraguan Government is contending with an armed internecine struggle. Nicaraguans are fighting against Nicaraguans on Nicaraguan soil. Unfortunately, the current flareup of violence is neither surprising nor unexpected.

It was evident to any impartial observer that a few months after it achieved victory, the Sandinist revolution -- which gave rise to so many hopes at the time of its victory over the dictatorship -- began devouring its own sons like Saturn. Members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and other senior government officials have not only abandoned their government functions, but have joined the open and resolute opposition. Among others, these include Violeta de Chamorro; Alfonso Robelo and Arturo Cruz, former junta members; Eden Pastora, revolutionary hero, former deputy defense minister and former chief of the Sandinist People's Militias; and many others who disagree with the deviation of the revolutionary process from its orginal concepts.

As a result or effect of this fact, the regime has become more and more repressive. The jails are full of political prisoners, and the most elementary individual and social guarantees are being restricted. Curbs are being placed on press freedom and even on freedom of religion, as was evidenced during the recent pastoral visit to Nicaragua by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. This attitude was repudiated by men of good will throughout the world.

In the face of this dark panorama, aggravated by a huge economic crisis, the Nicaraguan Government, resorting to a hackneyed recourse, decided to fabricate one or several enemies in the Central American region. Nothing was easier than to blame its closest neighbors, including Honduras, for all that was happening or could happen in that country.

Relations among the countries in the area gradually became tense because of incidents at the borders provoked by the Sandinist forces and because of the old charges that attempts were being made to destabilize the Nicaraguan Government.

In order to fully understand how preposterous these charges are, it is necessary to refer back to history. In 1980, after almost 20 years of de facto and irregular governments, Honduras undertook, with perseverance and sacrifice, the return to democratic institutionality. Elections were called to elect deputies for a National Constituent Assembly. These elections were held on 20 April 1980 in a climate of peace, freedom and honesty. A new Constitution of the republic was enacted and, while neighboring countries were fighting violence, the Honduran people returned to the polls in 1981, this time to elect a president of the republic, deputies to the National Congress and mayors, with a turnout of over 80 percent of the electorate. This civic gesture drew international recognition.

The first stage in the process toward Honduras' democratization culminated on 27 January 1982 when Roberto Suazo Cordova assumed the presidency with majority support from the Honduran people and in the presence of several American heads of state, including Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua.

The main concern of the new Honduran Government, internally speaking, has been to maintain the tranquillity the country was enjoying, to strengthen democratic institutions and to promote economic and social development in the country. Externally speaking, its basic objective has been to achieve peaceful coexistence with all countries on earth through a strict application of the principles embodied in the charter of this organization, particularly those referring to nonintervention in affairs of other states, the right to self-determination of peoples and the obligation to settle international controversies peacefully.

For this reason, barely 2 months after assuming office on 23 March 1982, the new Honduran Government submitted to the OAS Permanent Council a peace proposal for the Central American region. It contained six points, which can be summed up as follows:

1. The conclusion of agreements to stop the arms race in the area, to reduce armaments and to ban imports of certain military equipment, all for the purpose of achieving overall disarmament.

2. The reduction and elimination of foreign advisers of a military or any other nature.

3. The conclusion of agreements to stop or prevent the illegal arms traffic in the region.

4. An agreement on a system of international supervision to oversee compliance with whatever agreements are concluded.

5. The abstention from creation of new controversies of a territorial or maritime nature that could worsen the situation in the region.

6. The promotion of a multilateral dialogue of a permanent regional nature to make it possible to reach internal political agreements for the establishment of democratic and pluralist regimes based on a free, regular and honest expression of the people's will.

Since then, my government has made great efforts to turn this offer -- or any other proposal aimed at the same pacification goals -- into tangible reality for the benefit of the entire Central American region.

Mr President, Honduras reaffirms on this occasion its unshakeable determination to launch multilateral dialogue as soon as possible involving the presence of the Central American countries above all, and open to other democratically ruled Latin American and Caribbean countries. We feel that this is the proper means to reach responsible and serious agreements to strengthen peace and security in the area.

Several states have expressed their acceptance of this initiative. However, the Nicaraguan Government has not only remained absolutely silent about it, but its highest representatives have made threatening statements proclaiming that war against Honduras is inevitable in flagrant violation of fundamental principles consecrated by the international juridical community.

Therefore, it is evident that Nicaragua wants war while Honduras wants peace. If this were not the case, one could ask: Why is my country prepared to open its territory without restrictions to international supervision, always provided Nicaragua does the same, especially at the border areas, ports, airports and other strategic areas? There would be no explanation, either, for the constant readiness to engage in dialogue we have demonstrated, including the long conversation we held with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto on 8 October at this same headquarters under the sponsorship of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Subsequently, in a frank and spontaneous manner, I went to Managua in the month of November carrying a message of peace and understanding from my government to the Nicaraguan people and Government, a message that was radically censored in all the media of that country by the censorship commission, an agency of the Nicaraguan Government.

Here, Mr President, Mssrs members of the Security Council, is a clear testimonial of what I have stated, a copy of the newspaper LA PRENSA of that date from which even the smallest report on the arrival of the Honduran foreign minister in Nicaragua on a trip of good will, peace and harmony to seek permanent solutions was censored.

I wish to invoke another testimonial of the same fact. There is a person who accompanied me during the press conference. He heard my statements on our commitment to peace at the Managua international airport. He was a witness to my statements, as he was also a witness to the fact that the conference was completely censored. I refer to the testimony of my distinguished friend, Dr Victor Hugo Tinoco, deputy foreign minister of Nicaragua, who was seated beside me on that occasion.

Despite these slights and in view of the continuous accusations that there are camps of forces in Honduras that oppose the Nicaraguan regime, camps from which they allegedly attack the Sandinist forces, in February of this year I extended a cordial invitation to Foreign Minister d'Escoto to join me in touring the border region between the two countries so that he could confirm that there are none of the camps in Honduran territory whose alleged existence has motivated an intense, well-orchestrated publicity campaign to discredit my country as a result of the obstinate atempt by the Nicaraguan Government to appear as the victim, to change its role from victimizer to victim, in order to radicalize its behavior, divert attention from the serious internal conflict with which it is afflicted and continue to be the content, gratuitous beneficiary of international economic and military aid and privileges. Needless to say, the Nicaraguan Government also disregarded that invitation.

In the military sphere, Honduras has also demonstrated its commitment to serious and civilized dialogue. Last year, there was first a meeting of high-level military officers of the two countries led by the chiefs of staffs at La Fraternidad Customs post in Honduras. Shortly afterward, another meeting was held at the Nicaraguan port of Corinto between the chiefs of the respective naval forces. Another meeting remained pending, and it has not been held because of Nicaragua's reluctance to accept pragmatic mechanisms designed to prevent border incidents and strengthen a climate of detente in the Central American region.

The Nicaraguan Government has not yet responded to the invitation to hold this new meeting of naval chiefs to prevent maritime incidents. In November of last year, I personally reiterated this invitation to Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator general of the Government Junta, who told me that meetings of this type were insignificant.

It is truly regrettable that all these efforts made by my country to achieve better regional understanding should have been fruitless and that relations among Central American states should tend to become even more tense. While Honduras is seeking detente and dialogue with all the countries in the area, Nicaragua threatens us with imminent war. There are the statements by the highest commanders, who have said that they are prepared to confront Honduras and unleash an international war. To justify the mass mobilization of troops to the border area begun on Thursday of last week, the Nicaraguan Government now publicly and directly accuses the Honduran Armed Forces of having shelled -- and, more incredibly, of having even invaded -- Nicaraguan territory, charges that my government vigorously rejects because they are totally false and rash.

My government once again proclaims its absolute neutrality in the internal conflicts afflicting neighboring countries and its sincere interest in seeing those brother countries achieve the cherished gifts of peace and democracy by means of dialogue, understanding and mutual respect. Our interest in achieving those objectives is even greater because, due to our geographical proximity, internal struggles tend to cross borders and affect the normal course of life in my country. Proof of this is that at present there are some 40,000 refugees in Honduras from Central American countries, particularly Salvadorans and Nicaraguans. As can be confirmed by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in the past several weeks the number of Nicaraguan refugees has increased alarmingly. Their presence in Honduras can only be explained by their awareness of the fact that the Honduran Government remains neutral in the struggles of their countries and that it guarantees a climate of freedom, security and humanitarian understanding in the face of the climate of uncertainty and violence that prevails in their respective homelands. Mr President, these are the only camps of Nicaraguans that, without our having sought them, exist in Honduran territory.

Mr President, as the representative of a legitimate government that has resulted from the freely expressed will of the majority of the Honduran people, a government that is respectful of the law and of its international commitments, I formally denounce before this council the unjustified, provocative and threatening actions carried out by the Nicaraguan Government against Honduras, which constitute a real and serious threat to the peace and security of the Central American area.

Similarly, I urge this council to take specific measures so that through dialogue and negotiation a general, regional solution may be found to the Central American drama, because the various factors that cause the political upheaval, the social strife, the economic conflicts and the violence that shake that part of the American Continent are also general and regional.

I reiterate, Mr President, Your Excellencies, the members of this council, that the most fervent desire of the Honduran Government is for peace to return to Central America, thus promoting a climate in which public freedoms will flourish, the pluralistic democratic system will be strengthened and the human being will be enhanced and dignified.

Thank you very much, Mr President.

UN AMBASSADOR INTERVIEWED ON COUNCIL SESSION

PA251522 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Telephone interview with Enrique Ortez Colindres, Honduran ambassador to the United Nations, by Jacobo Goldstein on 23 March -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] We have Enrique Ortez Colindres, Honduran ambassador to the United Nations, on the phone. It is now 2358 in Washington, 2 minutes before midnight. Mr Ambassador, we have finally been able to get in touch with you. We would appreciate a statement from you for Voz de Honduras. It has been a very busy day at the United Nations, and we would like to begin this interview by asking you what were the main accusations Nicaragua made today at the UN Security Council?

[Answer] There was nothing new in the accusations. It was the same repetition of incidents, stating that the Honduran Army supports the insurgent movements taking place at this time near the Nicaraguan capital and that these groups entered from Honduras where they also received training in military camps with the support of the United States, which uses our country as a springboard to send these troops. We have categorically denied these charges.

We have explained to them that we have an extensive border, from the Gulf of Fonseca to the Atlantic Ocean and that in no way can we become gendarmes of the Nicaraguan position. We also told them that we have over 35,000 refugees in our country, the majority of which are Nicaraguans, and that during the time when they received asylum in Honduras and Costa Rica [as heard] they were able to see that the Honduran Government and people have never given military support to the destabilization of any country. We faithfully adhere to the principle of nonintervention.

It is a known fact that they have tried to use our territory to send huge amounts of weapons through the Nicaraguan-Honduran border to destabilize neighboring countries. This has been clearly stated.

U.S. Representative Kirkpatrick also spoke for almost an hour. She mentioned that over 200 tons of weapons were sent from Nicaragua to El Salvador in 1981.

So, all these problems must be analyzed with great objectivity. The debate will continue. We will continue maintaining that our position is eminently peaceful, that we have presented peace initiatives through our foreign minister who presented a very serious six-point proposal a year ago. In this initiative, our country suggests fundamental ways to solve the violence in the region, such as international supervision, based on regional agreements to end the arms race, but with Nicaragua also accepting an inspection; the elimination of military advisers in the two countries, especially in Nicaragua, which has an enormous number of advisers, more than 2,000. International reports show armored divisions, Soviet tanks that have arrived in Nicaragua. Today, 4 hours ago, President Reagan himself made public, via a nationally televised speech, the Nicaraguan military installations that exist with Soviet support.

In area countries like Grenada, for instance, airports which are out of all proportion to the needs of a country that has no air force, are being built. Moreover, Cuba is the largest international espionage center. As a result, the Security Council members for the first time have learned of the reality (?from) which we had been defending ourselves. It is high time, however, that we took off our blinders.

[Question] Mr Ambassador, [words indistinct] statements by Commander Humberto Ortega about the danger of an international war?

[Answer] On the basis of both the documents sent to us by our Foreign Secretariat and of today's formal denunciation at the OAS Council, I have charged that Commander Ortega's remarks are extremely dangerous to regional peace. I have also said that this (?annoyed) manner, this tone abnormal in the international sphere, is not the way to establish peace in Central America. On the contrary, it creates greater tension. And if reference is made to the charge (?that our army) is mobilizing (?along) the border, (?I explained to them) clearly that although our army has promised to respect the principle of nonintervention, it also has a constitutional mandate to fulfill defending our sovereignty and territorial integrity. I also explained that we cannot remain with our arms folded when there are armed mobilizations on the other side of the border.

Our position has therefore been to call for a peace dialogue. Our foreign secretary has repeatedly invited the Nicaraguan foreign minister to personally tour the border in order to confirm that there is no insurgent force in our country supported, as they claim, by the Honduran Armed Forces. They have refused to do this; they have turned down this invitation. We have also told them [15-second break in the transmission] to sit down together in search of a solution to our problems in civilized fashion. The Central American countries have all agreed to such a dialogue. Nicaragua is the only one which has not responded.

Minister Tincco told me that they were willing to accept immediately the proposal made by the Venezuelan and Mexican presidents. I told them, however, that although we had seen with sympathy and had never rejected this proposal, we had also made it clear that we do not want to limit the discussion of our fundamental problems to bilateral issues. They would like us to review only those problems connected with the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. We think that Central America's problems concern the five Central American countries and that the five countries should therefore sit down for talks. There should be either observers or guarantors (?from) the neighboring areas, democratic ministers or government representatives who could guarantee a regional pact.

We therefore reiterated our stand and I asked the Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister, who at this point is a representative on the Security Council, to clearly tell us whether they are willing to accept such a dialogue. We repeated to them that we are not interested in discussing generalities, because they accuse us of wanting to talk in only very general issues. I explained to them that it is not a general issue to visit the [5 second break in transmission] international, is the arms traffic, border security, respect for the principle of nonintervention and a number of other aspects contained in the proposal that Dr Paz Barnica presented at the OAS. This is why it seems to me that Nicaragua won't achieve its goal. On the contrary, today we have taken off our blinders and we can see clearly that the fundamental problem is that Nicaragua is creating a smokescreen to conceal a number of domestic political problems which the Nicaraguan people should resolve by themselves. I told them that we cannot become gendarmes for such a huge border. We didn't do it under Somoza and we won't do it now.

GOVERNMENT DENIES PRESENCE OF GUERRILLA CAMPS

PA291549 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Communique issued by the Honduran International Information Directorate; date and place not given -- read by newsman (Douglas Membreno]

[Text] Regarding inaccurate information that persistently appears in the foreign press, mistakenly reporting the presence of anti-Sandinist camps in Honduran territory, the government International Information Directorate once again denies that the country's constitutional government is allowing rebel camps to exist in Honduras.

The insurgents who are struggling against troops of Nicaragua's Marxist military government are inside that country and have not been and will not be allowed to use Honduras as a base.

It is important to remember that several weeks ago Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica invited Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to join him in a visit to the border area between the two countries, so that the Sandinist minister could verify that there are no armed anti-Sandinist groups there. Unfortunately, the Nicaraguan minister has not yet accepted the invitation.

In the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua there are camps of Nicaraguan refugees who have come to this country after having fled from the persecution to which they were subjected in Nicragua. These people are refugees, as has been confirmed by international organizations, not guerrillas.

FUSEP REPORTS DISCOVERY OF FMLN GUERRILLA CELL

PA281631 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] A redoubt of the FMLN of El Salvador was dismantled Saturday by the Public Security Forces [FUSEP] in Nacaome municipality, Valle Department.

Maj Marco Antonio Matute, commander of the FUSEP's 6th region, based in the country's southern area, reports the following: [Begin Matute recording] The situation is a source of real concern to us. Let me quickly give you some explanation about the actions we have taken since Saturday at 1600 when we were tipped off about the existence of a contingent of bearded, armed and uniformed men in our territory.

Upon receiving this information, we immediately sent out a 12-man patrol to determine if the report was true and, to our surprise, the patrol established contact with the enemy 15 minutes after leaving. We ordered other FUSEP posts located in the vicinity to support the operation immediately after we heard the shooting in the location where we found the guerrillas, who are members of a FMLN cell.

In this operation one guerrilla was killed, one was wounded and two escaped. We got only the body of the dead guerrilla. One of our men, policeman (Daniel Reyes Reyes), was shot in his left foot.

We seized a number of items of equipment, materiel and arms, including an M-16 rifle, a Czechoslovak submachinegun, several knapsacks, uniforms, subversive material and some information that clearly shows the Nicaraguan Sandinist government's intervention in the internal situations in the countries in the Central American area.

We are ready to comply with the mission that has been entrusted to us by the high command. Our officers and troops are prepared to fulfill this mission in a loyal and fervent way in order to preserve Honduras' democracy and freedom. However, we do want and demand from the people who are enjoying this freedom and this democracy to give us timely information so we can operate and maintain order, tranquillity and peace in all communities in this area the way we have done now [end recording]

Major Matute added that a search is being conducted in the area to find the two guerrilla who escaped. [Begin Matute recording] This is definitely part of the operation we launched at 1615. After having virtually dismantled the guerrilla cell, we ordered the search operation for the guerrillas who had escaped. Security posts in the area were alerted and checkpoints were established to search vehicles. This is the situation as we can report it now.

In addition, the 11th Infantry Battalion supported us with a platoon and an officer in this operation against the guerrilla cell. A land and air operation is now being conducted to track the guerrillas who escaped. [end recording]

The dead guerrilla suspect carried no identification documents, Major Matute reported: [Begin Matute recording] There are two interesting facts regarding the activities of people engaged in destabilizing our countries; when authorities approach them on the busiest routes they are found to be carrying identification that is in order down to the smallest detail. However, when guerrilla cells clash with armed forces or police personnel, we find that they carry no documents that could identify them or compromise the cell or the guerrilla movements. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTRY TO PROTEST NEW 'INVASION'

PA291449 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] New invasion activities against Nicaragua were carried out on 27 March by the Honduran army and a group of counterrevolutionaries in Chinandega and Nueva Segovia departments.

At 1600, a group of 15 Honduran soldiers launched an attack from Honduran territory with mortars and various caliber rifles directed at the border observation posts at (Loma del Suspiro) and (Loma del Espino), located 3 km north and 4 km northeast of Somotillo and Chinandega, respectively.

During the action, the Honduran guardsmen [as heard] entered Nicaraguan territory and were repelled by members of the Sandinist Peoples Army. At 0400, a group of counterrevolutionaries murdered (Ambrosio Raudales), the driver of a Red Cross ambulance, who was ambushed at the junction between the towns of San Fernando and Ciudad Antigua in Nueva Segovia.

The band also fired rifles at the town of San Fernando; however, there were no casualties among the townspeople, and no serious property damage.

After the enemy attack was repulsed by members of our army, the counterrevolutionaries withdrew to Honduran territory. In view of all this, the Foreign Ministry is drafting a new protest note to the Honduran Government.

AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON PAZ BARNICA OAS SPEECH

PA292330 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica today at the OAS Security Council [as heard; Permanent Council] launched a series of accusations against Nicaragua that were not answered by our ambassador at that international forum, Edgar Parrales. Foreign Minister Paz Barnica accused our country of being responsible for the problems of the region and called on the Central American countries to start a process of overall negotiations as soon as possible. Our correspondent at the capital of the empire, Washington, (Maria Estela Davancel), was able to get an exclusive interview with Father Parrales, who answers the accusations launched by Foreign Minister Paz Barnica.

[Begin Parrales recording] We have just heard Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica deliver a speech during a formal session. He came here to express the Honduran viewpoint on the conflict or crisis between Nicaragua and Honduras, specifically within Nicaragua. Foreign Minister Paz Barnica basically repeated the same accusations he launched yesterday at the United Nations, which had been included in a written document sent to the presidency of the UN Permanent Council [as heard] last week. These are the same accusations and statements that Honduran diplomacy has been making for quite some time. I even believe that what he said here today is a bit more restrained than what they said and the attitudes they struck at the United Nations. All he did was repeat that they greatly respect the sovereignty, integrity and internal rights of every country but then launch a series of statements attacking the sovereignty, integrity and the internal rights of Nicaragua. He knowingly or not is exposing himself through his speech.

He then said that in Nicaragua the basic freedoms such as religious freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom of assembly, freedom for political organization and so forth are not respected. He even insults our authorities by saying "he who acts as or fulfills the role of chief of state, which is like saying that he says he is a chief of state." Who is Dr Paz Barnica to question the capacity as chief of state of our coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction? He is not the man with the legal right to choose the Nicaraguan authorities. The Nicaraguan people do this. The government Nicaragua has, was chosen by the will of a people who picked up the weapons, shook off the oppression and placed in office those whom they believed should be there, as a free expression of the legitimate will of the Nicaraguan people.

Following this, he says Nicaragua has systematically refused dialogue. He wants to create the impression that Honduras invented dialogue as a resort; that he came here last year, delivered a speech, and for the first time in history Honduras spoke of dialogue as if no one before had ever mentioned dialogue. The truth is that months before, in December 1981, Mexico and France invited Nicaragua and Honduras to a dialogue and Honduras did not answer this invitation.

In February 1982, Mexico and Venezuela once again invited another dialogue, and Honduras said no. The president said no because he had to go to a business meeting in San Pedro Sula. But they don't consider this refusal of dialogue or silence in face of an invitation to a dialogue. However, what they propose is a dialogue. They go ahead and suggest six questionable points for dialogue. These six points meddle deeply in the sovereignty and autonomy of each country. This is something that is questionable and worthy of discussion -- a deep discussion as to what can or cannot be accepted.

In any case, the willingness to dialogue does exist. Nicaragua has always reiterated this, but what we will not accept is a tricky dialogue. We don't want countries like Honduras playing up to the United States. We don't want them to offer themselves as cannon fodder for the war that the U.S. wants to wage in Central America at any cost. The United States is not happy with the idea that its hegemony in Central America is declining. We then have Honduras lending itself to this game, as others lend themselves to the same game. Many times this is done because of economic reasons, many times because they need this to stay in political power. But deep down they don't realize that they are not hurting Nicaragua, they are only hurting their dignity as a people, hurting Central American history and they are going against the real future of the Central Americans.

We have therefore reserved our right to answer. We will make use of this point at the correct time. When we do, it will be done in complete freedom. I believe there is always the chance to sit and talk with Honduras of any other country, because we believe in consultation and we believe that dialogue is a means to face crisis and problems and a means to lead history, lead our people toward a future.

TOMAS BORGE ANNOUNCES REBEL AIRSTRIP BOMBED

PA300325 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Bocay has once again written a page in the history of revolutionary and Sandinist Nicaragua. Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez has announced that a landing strip used by the Somozist counterrevolutionary bands in the mouth of the Bocay River has been destroyed.

As if the combative spirit of (Jorge Navarro) were being reborn from his ashes, the heroic forces of our Sandinist Peoples Army have dealt a hard blow to Somozism, completely destroying the landing strip that was used by the counterrevolutionary bands to obtain the weapons that imperialism supplies them.

Bocay has once again emerged in this country's patriotic history. There where the first combative actions of the FMLN emerged, the invading enemy has suffered one of the spectacular defeats.

This afternoon, Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez announced that for the first time in the fight against the invading forces coming from Honduran territory, the heroic Sandinist Air Force [FAS] was used. It completely destroyed the landing strip that was used for the supplies of the bands that have infiltrated the country.

Commander Borge also announced that in the battle that had the support of Interior Ministry forces, three heroic sons of Sandino died and three others were wounded.

The destruction of the counterrevolutionary landing strip in the Bocay region was a combined action of the FAS and the Interior Ministry forces. The (Pablo Ubeda) Brigade took active part in the action to destroy the landing strip of counterrevolutionary bands located at the mouth of the Bocay River in Jinotega Department, on the border with Honduras. The action was combined with the FAS, which bombed the landing strip, through which the Somozist invaders received weapons from Honduran territory.

In a report to the national and foreign press tonight, Commander Tomas Borge Martinez indicated that the counterrevolutionaries have two airports or landing strips; one of them on the Honduran side and the other, the one that was destroyed, in Nicaraguan territory, which they can no longer use.

More on Borge Statement

PA300345 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The Sandinist Air Force and Interior Ministry forces have dealt a hard blow to the enemies of our people. A landing field used by the Somozist guardsmen to get the weapons supplied by imperialism was destroyed in the Bocay River region 2 days ago.

Three Sandinist Peoples Army companeros were killed and three others were wounded. The Somozist invaders sustained heavy casualties. Here is Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez giving details of this report:

[Begin recording] [Borge] There were some armed clashes in northern Nicaragua, near the Bocay River. We do not yet know the number of enemy casualties. An airport was detected in Nicaraguan territory. It was attacked by our forces, by the Interior Ministry troops, the (Pablo Ubeda) troops, which inflicted an as of yet undetermined but important number of casualties on the enemy forces. At the same time the Sandinist Air Force bombed the landing strip that the counterrevolutionaries had built in the region. We must note that there are two landing strips, one on the Nicaraguan side and another on the Honduran side. We bombed the landing strip in Nicaragua. The air force attacked small concentrations of counterrevolutionaries in the region. We do not yet know the number of casualties sustained by the enemy, but we have dealt a considerably hard blow to this attempt by the counterrevolutionaries to get near through the Bocay River region.

[Question] When did this occur, commander?

[Answer] This was yesterday or the day before yesterday.

[Question] (?Any casualties)?

[Answer] Unfortunately, we had three dead and three wounded. [end recording]

The counterrevolutionaries used two landing strips on the border region: one in Honduran territory and another in Nicaragua, which was destroyed by the Sandinist Air Force. The Interior Ministry forces have taken control of the site, located in the Bocay River region, one of the means that imperialism had to supply the counterrevolutionary bands that are in the northern region.

Let's continue to listen to details provided by Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge: [Begin Borge recording] This seriously hinders the supply from Honduras through this zone, and above all they know that we know where the landing strip is located and that we can fall upon them at any time. I think that landing strip is no longer usable. Helicopters and light planes would arrive there to supply the counterrevolutionary forces. In truth, I am giving you very important news. [end recording]

REBEL PRISONER REPORTED KILLED 'WHILE ESCAPING'

PA290445 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Nicaraguan Interior Ministry Communique issued in Managua on 28 March 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Interior Ministry of the Republic of Nicaragua reports to the people that on Friday, 26 March, at 0600, counterrevolutionary Roberto Rivas Hernandez alias El Coyote, was killed when trying to escape from the patrol car that was taking him to Boaco to identify other members of his band, who were under arrest.

The incident took place when Rivas Hernandez attempted to escape by jumping from the vehicle when it slowed down on a curve, and then tried to run away. When Rivas refused to obey the order to stop, and taking into consideration his lengthy criminal record, the companeros who acted as his guards were forced to shoot him.

Rivas Hernandez' crimes include:

1. April 1980: Recruited by former National Guard member (Lazaro Flores), who assigned him to a counterrevolutionary band that operated in the zones of El Trapiche, Mayawas and Paiguas, among others.

2. August 1981: Leads a group of 15 counterrevolutionaries who infiltrate the zones of El Trapiche and El Trapichito, where they commit the attrocious murder of a member of our Sandinist People's Army, EPS. They likewise assault and rape peasants in the zone.

3. During the same year he leads another counterrevolutionary group that infiltrates the community of Mayawas. They kill another companero of the EPS, and rape his wife and another peasant woman.

4. October 1981: He is part of another counterrevolutionary group that infiltrates the area of (La Rosita), where he personally beheads an EPS member.

5. Late in 1982: Rivas Hernandez and other counterrevolutionary members kill another militia member in the area of El Trapichito. They also ambush a truck, murder the militia member driving it, rape a nurse travelling in the vehicle and steal the truck's cargo.

6. November 1982: Accompanies a group of counterrevolutionaries who attack the area of La Martina and kill companeros (Gregorio) and (Julio Lira). Afterwards they go to (Rio Viejo) and kill two more companeros.

7. 13 January 1983: Rivas Hernandez is recognized in the Campoapa marketplace by a peasant; they had robbed the peasant and raped his wife in the area of Paiguas. Rivas Hernandez was arrested on that date.

[Dated] Managua, 28 March 1983, year of the struggle for peace and sovereignty.
[Signed] Department of Public and Foreign Relations of the Interior Ministry.

TRADE COMMITTEE WITH GREAT BRITAIN SET UP

FL291145 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Cuban representation in the Cuba-Great Britain Trade Committee has been established with the official document signed by Jose Diaz Mirabal, president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, and David Thomas, British ambassador to Cuba. It was noted at the meeting that there are ample prospects for the committee to deepen and expand trade between Cuban and British enterprises. It was also announced that the committee's main objective will be to open more effective communication between the economic and commercial sectors of the two countries in order to achieve an expansion of bilateral trade.

COMMITTEE ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE ORGANIZED

FL300106 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The establishment of the Cuban Committee in Support of an International Conference on the Palestinian Issue, sponsored by the United Nations, was announced this afternoon in Havana by Levi Farah. The minister of government and president of the Cuba-Arab Friendship Association reported that Cuba will hold one of the two vice presidencies of the organizing committee and of the international conference itself, which will be held in Paris next August.

The main objectives of the conference are to increase world awareness on the Palestinian issue and to attain government and nongovernmental support in seeking efficient means aimed at allowing the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights. The Cuban Committee in support of the conference is headed by Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, with Levi Farah as vice president and formed by representatives from more than 10 mass organizations of the country. Farah also announced a broad plan of activities prior to the conference in which mass organizations will have an outstanding participation.

DOCTOR ASSAILS U.S. OVER DISEASED CATTLE CHARGE

FL291515 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Cuban cattle have never been affected by hoof-and-mouth disease, and lies to that effect put out by the U.S. Government are aimed at hurting our export of medicines and other products, Dr Ramon Ortiz, director of the Cuban Institute of Veterinary Medicine, has charged. The institute has just released a paper that denies the newest falsehood put out by the imperialists. In a statement to the press, Ortiz strongly denounced the enemy's intentions, aimed at projecting a false picture of the state of animal health in our country. In the first place, he explained, it is clear they want to limit our exports, but they may also want to establish a frame of mind in which to subsequently introduce the disease into Cuba, as they did with swine fever. He added that those filthy practices of Ronald Reagan no longer surprise anyone and he stressed that many official international organizations can attest to the fact that the disease does not exist and never has existed in Cuba.

AALAPSO EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA

FL291616 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] AALAPSO has issued a message of support for Nicaragua at a time when it is experiencing the threat of intervention following an undeclared war by the United States. The document, issued here, notes that the Reagan administration is arming and training members of former dictator Somoza's army and other repressive organizations in Honduras to massacre Nicaraguans and sabotage the country's economy with vandalistic actions. It adds that this imperialist strategy, for which the U.S. Congress approved $60 million, also threatens revolutionary movements in El Salvador and Guatemala, true examples of the people's struggle for national liberation in the region.

RISQUET COMMEMORATES ANGOLAN VICTORY ANNIVERSARY

FL290054 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The national commemoration of the seventh anniversary of the Angolan people's victory was held this afternoon at the Julian Aleman Rope Factory in Matanzas. The ceremony was chaired by Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes and Mwaete Joao Baptista, ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola to our country. A numerous group of members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the liberation movements accredited to Cuba attended the ceremony as well as Angolan students, relatives of internationalist combatants and hundreds of Matanzas workers.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Mwaete Joao Baptista referred to his people's struggle over the years until the withdrawal toward Namibia of the South African aggressors. In his closing remarks, Esteban Lazo Hernandez, first party secretary in Matanzas province and alternate member of the Central Committee, praised the will and sacrifices made by the fraternal Angolan people and said the aid given by the Soviet Union and Cuba was an example of solidarity. The ceremony was a reaffirmation of the friendship ties existing between the peoples and governments of Cuba and Angola.

HAVANA REPORTS HART'S ACTIVITIES IN BARCELONA

FL281640 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart held several meetings with government officials, intellectuals and Catalonian artists in Barcelona. The Cuban leader explained the objectives of our country's cultural policy. At the Barcelona airport, Hart met with Spanish Defense Minister Narcis Serra, with whom he held friendly talks. Hart visited the (Joan Miro) Foundation and the Navigation Museum and was feted by the Catalonian Government with a dinner at the official residence. He also met with representatives of the six Cuban-Spanish friendship houses in the Catalonian region. They discussed several topics of bilateral interest.

BRAVO MEETS WITH VISITING SWISS DELEGATION

FL290154 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Flavio Bravo, member of the Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, this afternoon received the delegation of Parliament members of the Swiss Confederation, headed by Dr (Richard Mueller), national adviser and chairman of that country's Foreign Relations Committee. The delegation is also made up of (John Noel Rey), Parliament secretary, and others.

The delegation arrived in the early morning hours. During its stay in Cuba, the Parliament members will observe a program of visits to learn firsthand about the gains of the Cuban revolution in the fields of health, education and arts and will also hold talks with some leaders of the revolution. During the talks with Flavio Bravo, Dr (Richard Mueller) said he wanted to visit Cuba because he had learned about the country's accomplishments, which he believes are an example for Latin America. Flavio Bravo briefly explained the functions of the people's government's agencies, the work of the delegates in their districts and how the Cuban poeple exercise their rights democratically through the meetings with the delegates.

RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH VISITING SPANISH OFFICIAL

FL291220 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received (Luis Yanez Vasnuevo), president of the Spanish-American Cooperation Institute. During their meeting, Rodriguez and (Yanez Vasnuevo) discussed the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean and relations between Cuba and Spain.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY

FL291410 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] A protocol covering the talks and the scientific-technical cooperation agreement between the academies of sciences of Hungary and Cuba for the remainder of the 5-year period has been signed in Havana. The document was signed by Lenard Pal, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee and secretary general of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and Wilfredo Torres, member of the Party Central Committee and president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

WESTERN SAHARA PRESIDENT RECEIVES AMBASSADOR

FL290217 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Western Sahara's President Mohammed Abdelaziz, has received the Cuban Ambassador to the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, Raul Barzaga. During the talks, matters of mutual interest, the progress of the Saharan people's struggle for independence and international problems, such as the situation in the African Northeast, Central America and the Caribbean, were discussed.

NEW BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

FL292144 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2108 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State, has received in a formal audience his excellency Mr Petur Ivanov Marinkov, who presented his credentials accrediting him as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the ambassador and his entourage went to the Plaza de la Revolucion to deposit a floral wreath at the foot of the Jose Marti Monument.

ESPIN PLEDGES FMC AID TO OVERCOME SETBACK

FL241300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The Cuban women will respond with their customary efficiency to the call of our party in the face of the climatic adversity, Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], stated in her closing remarks at the sixth FMC national committee plenum. Referring to the GRANMA editorial of 23 March, Vilma Espin said the Cuban women's aid will not be too late for the effort to transform this weather setback into victory.

GRENADA

GENERAL AUSTIN DISCUSSES THREAT OF INVASION

PA282210 St Georges Domestic Service in English 0001 GMT 27 Mar 83

["Perspective 83" program with guest Hudson Austin, general of the Grenadian Armed Forces, interviewed by Arnaldo Hutchinson of PRENSA LATINA, (Lincoln Ducksidin) of Radio Free Grenada, (Eduardo Ferguson) of the New Jewel, (Ray Donald) of the Government Information Service, and (Patsy Lewis) of the FREE WEST INDIAN; moderated by (John Newhouse) -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Newhouse] Comrade Austin, welcome to the program.

[Austin] Thank you John.

[Newhouse] There have been plots. There have been threats. There have been aggressions of all types and sorts against our revolution over the last 4 years. This most recent one has been characterized as the most serious threat to date. Why is that so general?

[Austin] Over these past 4 years, the threats and the aggressions that concern our revolution was mainly based on maneuvers held on our airspace, maneuvers in the Caribbean waters, who have come from counterrevolutionaries aided and abetted by the CIA such as the June 19th bomb blast. But we have never had any threats, whereby the president of the United States himself threatened our country. This is the reason why we consider this to be the most serious threat, because when you realize that the President of the United States decided to say that Grenada is a threat to the security of the United States and the President is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, you have to see this as a very serious and dangerous threat to the revolution.

[Hutchinson] General, the trends of other countries indicate that the fight against the threat of an aggression actually begins before the actual aggression takes place, which would mean that Grenadians actually are involved at this moment in the fight against the aggression, are at a special stage of this fight. How would you say Grenadians are standing up to this stage of the fight?

[Austin] The point is the Grenadian people have been warned over the years that at any time we expect an aggression and our party and government over the years has been informing the people of the threat that U.S. imperialism would pose to us once our country began to make any form of advancement, once our economy is growing and once we are meeting the needs of the people. The masses were informed over the years that we expect that kind of threat and our people are standing up to that threat in a way that we must say is very good at this point in time because whenever our nation faces any form of threat, the people come out and give their assistance in many ways possible, not only military, but in all other ways. Many people come out and lend us vehicles for mobilization. People come out and do different aspects of the work that is required to meet the threat, and I must tell you at this point that is needed.

[Ducksidin] [Words indistinct] to describe the threat [words indistinct] to describe the threat [words indistinct] as a do or die situation. Can you further elaborate on this statement?

[Austin] Well, the question of looking at this threat as a do or die, we have to look at it from the different angles as exist. For instance, whenever the United States decides to attack any country at all, first of all, you get a blitz of propaganda.

Secondly, you find them finding the ways and means of softening up their own people, the American people and the world to prepare for that attack. They find all kinds of propaganda that they did not use before. Even though it was something that existed in your country before, they take it and they use it so that the people of the United States and other allies of the United States would be able to say well, the United States did find a reason to intervene, because they always feel they have the right to intervene.

[Ferguson] Does the leadership of the revolution, based on President Reagan's statements and on concrete intelligence reports in their possession, feel that an attack on the country is imminent? In the event of such an attack, how do you think -- or, right now, because of the information that we have, how would you think Grenadians should respond to such a grave threat within the country?

[Austin] There are many ways that the Grenadian people could respond to this threat. First and foremost, by joining the militias and getting trained to defend the country. This is first and foremost: To join the militias. There are other ways that the Grenadian people could respond by getting organizations outside of the country and organizations inside of the country to make statements and getting their families abroad to make statements against this threat that faces us. There are also other ways the people could respond. They could respond by getting together in the country and doing the things that are necessary to prepare themselves for this type of onslaught that will come. When I say doing things, I mean things like the incentives, preparing a place to secure children, preparing places to secure the aged and many other ways: By securing fuel, and doing [does not complete thought], securing food, preparing food so that when the onslaught comes the people of the country would not starve. And these are the many ways that the people could respond to this threat.

[Donald] To psyche themselves into believing that the threat by imperialism is not real, some Grenadians have some very strange ideas. Some say that the attack will not materialize, because there are several medical students from the United States now in our country. Some other people say that because there are many dogs in Grenada and these dogs make a lot of noise, that the noise will expose the invaders. What are your feelings on this?

[Austin] Well, there will always be the doubting Thomases. And the dogs making noise and your country being what it is, never ever stop intruders. At this point I would like to point out the history of U.S. aggression, not only in the Caribbean, but in many other parts of the world. And I hear there are dogs in Vietnam. There are dogs in Nicaragua. And I am certain that many persons in Nicaragua and in Vietnam thought that the United States would not attack their country. But we have to understand why some people go around with doubt in their minds.

First and foremost, you have the kind of people who feel that because over the years colonialism has taught us that the United States is some kind of paradise, and so because many foreigners in Grenada have family in the United States, they feel that the United States would not attack. And because the United States has medical students in Grenada, they would not attack. When the United States attacked Cuba, there had been many Americans living in Cuba. When they attacked the Dominican Republic, there were many people from the United States living in the Dominican Republic. When they attacked Vietnam, there were Americans living in Vietnam. You have Americans living in Angola and they attack. The point is not who is living there; the point is what is the aim and objective they want to achieve: imperialism through their own people, in order to achieve their aims and objectives.

[Lewis] What lessons remain to be learned by the Grenadian people from the current invasion of Nicaragua?

[Austin] The main lesson for our people is that: 1. Any time U.S. imperialism is going to attack you, you get the propaganda blitz coming. 2. They find some puppet country to use as though they are not involved, and 3. They use some of the counter-revolutionaries. They send them, infiltrate them in the country a few days before, so that they could start the insurrection and they support them from the puppet country. People tend to say that because we do not have borders like Nicaragua, the situation here will be different and maybe the United States won't attack us. That is blatant stupidness.

We have to look at: 1. Cuba was an island, too, and had no borders with anyone. And in the Bay of Pigs, they find a way and means of attacking. The Comoros Island is a smaller island then Grenada, with less population than Grenada and they find ways and means of infiltrating people and attacking. The Seychelles island, only last year, when they infiltrate their mercenaries, like members of a drinking club with their weapons in bags to attack the country and then they would have the puppet country for support when the insurrection started inside the country. So the lessons Grenadians have to learn is that any moment, any day, any night, even right now, maybe already, they have the people infiltrating here, and are just waiting to start the insurrection and the puppet neighboring country that they have it in now. The people who the CIA trains, they will infiltrate them when they start the insurrection inside here.

So if our people have the idea that the United States wouldn't attack us, and because we do not have borders, they won't attack, history is best qualified, and we learn the lesson from history. What happened to the other islands that are smaller than us could happen to us and would happen to us.

[Hutchinson] General Austin, summing up your answer in relation to the points made by Prime Minister Bishop. He said that a neighboring island is used as the base of operations for the activities of the people who are plotting against Grenada. Has the PRG [People's Revolutionary Government] in any way contacted this government to denounce these activities that are being carried out by these people on their soil.?

[Austin] It is not always necessary to do that immediately, but when you know that a government knows what is going on. [words indistinct] You wait and see and this is what we are doing. We're waiting and we're looking, because we are certain that government knows what is going on in their country.

[Lewis] General Austin, isn't the military maneuver planned for April 22 and 23 a bit late, considering the urgency the PRG places on the invasion, sir?

[Austin] The maneuver is planned to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the death of (Jeremiah Richardson) and that maneuver will be named the (Jeremiah Richardson) Maneuver for the defense of the homeland. But that has nothing to do with the invasion as such, because the invasion is expected any time now. As you realize, right now, there is a big maneuver going on by the United States in our airspace. Only today we have had the report that our planes cannot use the instruments that they are supposed to use for guiding and charting our planes from Trinidad to Grenada. They cannot use the radar and our pilots must be using their eyes to find the lanes in the sky to get from place to place. So we expect at any time that the invasion could come, because when the United States is occupying our airspace and doing it in such a blatant way, without even informing the government, what do you expect next? The bomb falling on you or troops dropping on you.

[Ducksidin] In recent years, we have heard a lot of talk about maneuvers: The NATO countries holding maneuvers, the United States holding maneuvers, Grenada holding maneuvers staged by the United States and the maneuvers which Grenada might stage?

[Austin] Comrade, this is a very good question, a very good question, because people just use the word loosely and they don't understand that there are different types of maneuvers. First and foremost, there are two types of maneuvers. You have offensive maneuvers and defensive maneuvers. And it is only fitting at this point that you should note whenever we stage a maneuver in Grenada, you would notice that our comrades are doing things to defend the country. If you look at the comrades who are on the beachside, you will see they are preparing to defend against people coming. But if you look at most of the maneuvers done by the United States, you will see they always training how to land somebody else's territory. That is what you call offensive maneuvers: How to invade countries, how to take away people's country from them. But maneuvers are how to defend against those invaders coming. That is the two different types of maneuvers you have: Offensive and defensive. Ours are defensive.

[Hutchinson] General Austin, with all this anti-Grenada propaganda coming from high officials of the U.S. Government, including the President of the United States, and with the over-600 young Americans studying at the medical school here, is there the danger that Grenadians, as a response to this anti-Grenada propaganda that is being promoted in the United States, isn't that a fear of the danger that Grenadians may vent their feeling against these Americans who are studying at the medical school at some time?

[Austin] We have to look at that question from many sides. First and foremost, we have nothing against the American people. And if you listen carefully, the American people do not spread any propaganda against the Grenada revolution. Who spread the propaganda against the Grenada revolution is the U.S. Government, the officials of the U.S. Government, who we are certain that the people of the United States do not see eye-to-eye with.

For instance, there is some article on different papers in the United States that made it clear that what the U.S. Government is talking about -- for instance, talking about in airbase in Grenada -- these papers are making it clear that what the United States is talking is nonsense, because their officials, the chief of the naval command, made it clear that the airport in Grenada is not an airbase and therefore our people have from time to time been lectured by our leaders, would never, ever interfere with the medical students in Grenada as a form of revenge for what the U.S. Government is doing, because we understand clearly that the medical students in Grenada know that what the United States is talking about is a lie.

They live exactly at the end of the international airport runway. That is where the medical students are. And they know that what their government is saying is a lie, because they frequent the airport. They run up and down this country. They run any hour of the night. For instance, when you leave this studio now, you will see medical students running and jogging all over this place, and nobody has ever interfered with one of them. They have good relations with our people. They play games with our people. They go to dances; they go to [word indistinct]. They go on the beach. They go all over this country and nobody interferes with them. And I am certain that no one will interfere with them because of their government's stupidity.

[Hutchinson] General, I was speaking to an American citizen, who was visiting Grenada, on Reagan's attacks against Grenada and, apparently Reagan's argument that it's not Grenada that concerns the United States, but it's the connections of Grenada with Cuba and the Soviet Union, has had some impact on this person. Could you respond to this argument with which Reagan tries to justify his attacks against Grenada, which are the same argument that are being used in El Salvador at present?

[Austin] The point here is, we have to understand that Grenada has a revolution and the focus of the Grenada revolution is to create more and more benefits for the people. In the first hours of the revolution, the first few words issued by the prime minister were that the revolution was all about school, education and work and our relationship with the Soviet Union is an economic one. Our relationship with Cuba, as everybody could see, is a relationship whereby we are being assisted by the people of Cuba. If you look at it, for the past 30 years, Grenada was trying to build an international airport. The United States was responsible for the first [word indistinct] on that airport and after 30 years they did nothing. How could people have any confidence in them?

Our people have come to realize that we have to diversify our trade and diversify our (?labor) and build new friends in the world and neither Reagan nor the United States is going to tell us who must be our friends, who we must have relations with, what kind of relations we must have with them, when we must have them, or how we must have them. We will develop relations with whom we feel to develop relationships with and nobody is going to stop that.

VENEZUELAN TRAWLER RELEASED AFTER INVESTIGATION

FL292112 Bridgetown CANA in English 2043 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 29, CANA -- A Venezuelan trawler, arrested last week on suspicion of fishing in Grenada's waters has been released following an official investigation, a spokesman for the Venezuelan Embassy here said today. The 80-ton trawler "Payacho" was arrested by the Coast Guard on March 20 in the Grenadines, six miles north of Grenada, with 28 tons of fish which the captain said had been caught in international waters.

"An official investigation has proved that this vessel was not fishing in Grenada's waters," the embassy spokesman said. "And there has been no fine or confiscation of the fish." The spokesman stressed that the incident resulted from a misunderstanding of the fact that the "Payacho", which left St Georges yesterday, was merely passing through Grenada's waters on the way to Venezuela. The incident, he added, has in no way impaired the excellent relations between Grenada and Venezuela.

JAMAICA

SEAGA ASKS BANKERS TO ANALYZE LIQUIDITY PROBLEM

FL281810 Bridgetown CANA in English 2051 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 26, CANA -- Jamaica's bankers have been told by Prime Minister Edward Seaga to analyze the liquidity problem facing their institutions and make recommendations on how to deal with high interest rates here.

Mr Seaga told the bankers at a meeting yesterday that the high interest rates could have a negative effect on productivity -- an argument that has been often repeated by the Jamaica Manufacturers Association.

The association has been in the forefront of a lobby for a cut in the rates. Mr Seaga, however, said that contrary to general belief, the public sector was not absorbing the major portion of the bank liquidity. Rather, the situation reflected a sharp increase in private investment, he said.

Commercial banks have been complaining that they have liquidity problems following a government decision that they maintain a 40 per cent liquidity ratio. Banks have said they have had to reduce the levels of loans and interest rates have been raised. Banks are statutorily required to maintain a 29.5 per cent liquidity ratio, but they can be asked to go as high as 40 per cent, a rate that had been maintained since 1979 until a spurt in demand for loans between 1981 and 1982. Their liquidity ratio had slipped to the high thirties when the government, during the last quarter of 1982, intent to put the brakes on consumer credit expansion, told the institutions to increase their liquidity rates to 40 per cent.

As the banks cutting back credit, interest rates went up and most loans began attracting interest in the region of 18 and 20 per cent. The chairman of the Bankers Association said last December that the squeeze would be felt hardest during the first quarter of 1983.

EXPORTERS CALL FOR RETURN TO FREE TRADE

FL261955 Bridgetown CANA in English 1818 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 26, CANA -- Jamaican exporters, who met in a special session here yesterday, have called for an immediate return to free trade in the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) to end the trading conflict that erupted with the January introduction by Jamaica of a new currency regime that made goods from its partners in the community more expensive here.

The exporters association said a resolution, unanimously passed at its meeting recommended to the Jamaica Government that all restrictions to free trade in the Caricom region be immediately removed, subject only to procedures which will ensure that the Caricom rules of origin be observed. The resolution also said that monitoring procedures, where introduced, should not act in restraint of free trade, and that any such mechanism be so structured that import orders could be placed without prior notification to the monitoring body.

In keeping with the principle of removal of all impediments to free trade, the association said, the meeting also called for reciprocity in the matter of investments by nationals of Caricom countries in Trinidad and Tobago, which was at present restrained by the operation of their alien landholdings act. It was noted that similar restrictions existed in other Caricom territories and that these should be removed.

The JEA meeting was a response to a mounting cancellation of orders from Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago because of retaliatory actions by the governments of those countries to even out the inbalance created when Jamaica decided to formalise the parallel currency market in January.

Under the Jamaican system the official exchange rate for a U.S. dollar here is Jamaican 1.78 dollars, but this rate is only for essential imports, raw materials for export manufactures and some payments. Other imports, including goods from Caricom, are paid for at significantly higher parallel market rates set by commercial banks. Barbados, to deal with the Jamaica action, floaced its currency against the Jamaican dollar, which of necessity would be in greater demand because of Jamaica's trade surplus with Bridgetown.

But that move led to an almost complete shutdown in trade between the two islands as the Central Bank halted trading in the Barbados dollar saying it was waiting on commercial banks in Bridgetown to signal the rates. Trinidad and Tobago followed-up last week by placing negative listed imports from Caricom under licence. The GLEANER newspaper today said that the Port of Spain administration had taken the matter further by indicating that it would frequently grant licences to exporters, except those from Jamaica.

The Jamaica manufacturers held a similar meeting on Thursday, but publicly said nothing of the outcome. However, sources here say that a resolution was passed calling on the government to do everything possible to settle the problem. Prime Minister Seaga announced this week that a public and private sector mission would go to Bridgetown and Port of Spain early next week with a package of initiatives which he hoped would serve to smooth over the situation. The initiatives have been discussed with the private sector leadership and will be reviewed by the Cabinet on Monday, but Mr Seaga has not said what they are.

DOMINICA SIGNS UN'S LAW OF SEA CONVENTION

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[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 29, CANA -- Dominica yesterday became the 125th country to sign the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, under which the world community will seek to exploit the resources of the oceans outside national jurisdiction as the common heritage of mankind. The convention was initialled at the Foreign Ministry here by Roseau's honorary consult to Jamaica, Emile George. All independent members of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) have now signed the agreement.

Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda were the only two independent members of the 12-country community that had not signed the convention during the final session of the Law of the Sea Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica last December. Antigua and Barbuda signed on February 7 and is now participating in the first meeting of the preparatory commission on the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the Tribunal of the Law of the Sea, taking place here. Dominica can now name a delegation to the commission's meeting which is expected to continue for another four weeks.